

THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

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Mackay seeks to impose cash limits

Test for merit in shake-up of legal aid

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

REFORMS to stop millions of pounds of legal aid going on trivial cases were announced yesterday in the biggest shake-up of the scheme since it was set up in 1949.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern hopes to introduce legislation this autumn to impose cash limits on the £1.4 billion scheme. The Bill would also bring in a merit test, so that only the most deserving cases would be funded on taxpayers' money, and a new principle by which everyone would have to pay something towards the cost of their case. They would also be liable for their opponent's costs if they lost.

The changes would create an NHS-style internal market, with law firms, advice bureaux and others awarded block contracts by the Legal Aid Board to provide services. That is likely to lure insurance companies into the market with schemes raising public and private funds to back legal actions.

The Lord Chancellor said yesterday that the present system was delivering "less and less, pound for pound, to an ever smaller section of society." The public saw legal aid as "wasteful in supporting too many undeserving cases; as over-priced, with taxpayers on moderate incomes - who would not qualify for legal aid if they sought it - paying what appears to them to be huge lawyers' fees."

But the plans brought criticism from lawyers and consumer groups, who claimed that poor people would be hit hardest. The Law Society said that litigants would face a lifetime of debt if they lost. They would be frightened out of seeking legal aid and unable to enforce or defend their rights.

Both the society and the Bar said that plans for regional cash limits would create a new layer of bureaucracy. David Penry-Davey, QC, the Bar chairman, said the changes would be a "victory for bureaucracy, waste and injustice." They would restrict



Mackay: "public sees system as wasteful"

choice and reduce quality of service.

At the heart of the plans is an appeal to "middle England" taxpayers who have been infuriated by a series of high-profile legal aid cases. Under the new merit test, a number of cases which have hit the headlines would be excluded from the scheme. These would include the cancer patient Cyril Smith, who is suing the NHS after being told his diagnosis of terminal illness was wrong; the former RAF officer Simon Foster, who is trying to force his health authority to give him a sex change; and Jawad Hashim, one-time aide to the Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, who was given £4 million to defend a £34 million civil fraud claim, even though he had six homes.

Yesterday Lord Mackay made clear that he wanted to move swiftly on the "radical" proposals, many of which do not need legislation and are already being implemented. Advice agencies are to be brought under the scheme immediately, so that they can be awarded contracts in the same way as franchised law firms are now.

He also intends to open consultations with the legal profession about standard rates for civil cases, "as a prelude to moving to bulk contracts with fixed prices," and a special unit is being set up to investigate "apparently

"wealthy" applicants. Legislation is needed for the new merits test and the rules to make people contribute towards their legal aid fees, beyond the end of the case. But these could be wrapped up "quite neatly" in a Bill, he said.

The measures are part of a wider reform programme to extend access to justice for those outside legal aid by cutting the cost of litigation, and officials hope to wrap the reforms into one Bill.

The White Paper published yesterday acknowledged the controversy the proposals would cause, saying: "Balancing interests and policy objectives is never easy and is rarely popular because few people get everything they want."

The document goes on to make clear that people should not be asked to pay more than they can afford, although the Lord Chancellor said: "A small charge at the outset may well be a good way of ensuring that those who wish to take cases are really committed to them. The taxpayer is asked to assist in other people's cases, and if those people are not committed to their case to the extent of a very small limited contribution in the first place, it seems very hard to expect the taxpayer to be so."

But the National Consumer Council accused the Government of planning unsubstantiated and dangerous changes on the wrong assumption that frivolous people were queuing up to bring trivial cases. The chairman, David Hatch, said: "Very poor and desperate people will be priced out of the justice system if they know they may be forced to pay an application fee and contribute to costs if they lose."

Isabel Manley, vice-chairwoman of the Law Centres Foundation, said: "The Lord Chancellor has thrown away a golden opportunity to improve the scheme. It is the poor and vulnerable who will suffer."

Costs of justice, page 6
Leading article, page 21



Carol Burwash: collapsed and died after being given ten times the prescribed dose

Woman died after doctor misread handwriting

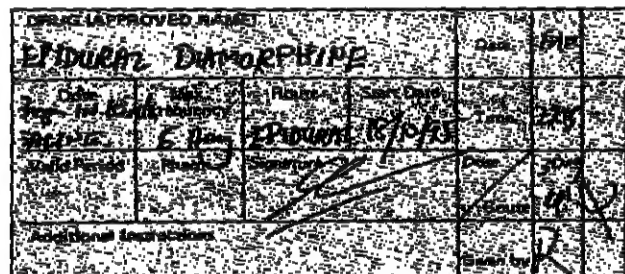
By RUSSELL JENKINS

A PATIENT at a prestigious private hospital died after a doctor misread a colleague's handwriting and gave her ten times the required dose of painkillers, an inquest was told yesterday.

Carol Burwash, 53, had been admitted to the Princess Grace Hospital in Maylebone, west London, for a routine hysterectomy, but she collapsed and died after being given 30mg of diamorphine (pharmaceutical heroin) instead of the 3mg designed to help her sleep comfortably.

Dr Paul Knapman, the Westminster coroner, yesterday criticised the two doctors involved, but said the errors at the hospital fell short of criminal. He recorded a verdict of accidental death, adding: "That does not mean everybody is blameless. It has no bearing on compensation."

Dr Knapman said that the



The dosage instruction, left, was read as 30mg

hospital had shown shortcomings and insufficient attention to detail: a mistake had been made "with absolutely devastating fatal consequences". He also criticised the back-up procedures when it came to resuscitation.

Mrs Burwash's husband Brian, who hoped for a verdict of unlawful killing, expressed bitter disappointment that the police had stopped their investigation.

The figure on the prescription, written by the consultant

anaesthetist Dr Giok Lim, was unclear and dreadfully written, the coroner said. And Dr Lim should have gone over it with the resident medical officer Dr Richard Hornabrook and the nursing staff. He should also have made sure that they understood what was involved in giving the painkiller by epidural.

Dr Hornabrook had administered an epidural only once before and had never before been left in charge of a

continued on page 4, col 6

English pupils plummet in international maths league

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

ENGLISH teenagers are plummeting in the international league in mathematics, according to an authoritative study of standards in 41 countries to be published later this year. But in science they are the brains of Europe.

The survey of 13-year-olds will confirm experts' worst fears of underperformance in mathematics. Ministers and Opposition politicians have called for action after a series of gloomy reports suggesting that many children never master basic numeracy.

English results were 3 per cent above the world average when the International Mathematics and Science Study was last undertaken, in 1990. By last year the country's 13-year-olds were almost 3 per cent below the average and last of a group of industrialised nations in algebra and number work.

A smaller-scale study to be published next week by Ofsted, the school inspection agency, will raise similar concerns. But academics have been waiting for the main survey which bases its findings on thousands of test results and is seen as the main benchmark of achievement.

Teachers will draw some consolation from the science results, which place England sixth out of 27 countries. But the mathematics placing of nineteenth out of 27 will raise further questions about the way the subject is taught.

The 13,800 English teenagers answered 53 per cent of maths questions correctly, compared with 79 per cent in top-of-the-table Singapore. The average was 55 per cent, with Ireland, Belgium, Switzerland and France all reaching higher standards.

In science, the position was

reversed, with only Singapore, Japan, Korea and the Czech Republic outperforming England. From 2 per cent above the average for science in 1990, England was almost 6 per cent better in 1995.

English teenagers did best in environmental science, with only Singaporeans scoring more highly. They were ahead of Western Europeans in all five areas tested.

The study is the third of its kind. England and Scotland, whose pupils are assessed separately, did not participate in a parallel survey of 17-year-olds because of doubts about its methodology.

Professor David Reynolds, who carried out the Ofsted study, said: "These figures are very much in line with our findings, although the maths results are somewhat worse than we recorded and science somewhat better. The poor performance in maths almost certainly reflects the long tail of underachievers."

A spokesman for the Department for Education and Employment said: "Other international evidence has shown standards in maths are not high enough and we have taken action to address this."

Lord Henley, the Junior Education Minister, announced the latest Government initiative yesterday, with the introduction of mental arithmetic tests at 11 and 14. Gillian Shepherd, the Education and Employment Secretary, has already introduced calculator-free tests.

Labour said a progress report on the Government's education and training targets, also published yesterday, showed how far there was to go in mastering the basics. "Our youngsters lag behind still further as they get older."

Tories turn to satire in battle over manifesto

By JILL SHERMAN AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE pre-election battle intensified yesterday after it emerged that Paul Hamlyn, the publisher, is to finance most of Labour's £1 million advertising campaign to sell its new manifesto. At the same time the Tories, combining invective and sarcasm, released a "spoof" version of Tony Blair's plans.

As Mr Blair won the backing of Labour's national executive for his 36-page "Road to the Manifesto" programme, with only two leftwingers voting against, party officials revealed plans to launch the biggest ever campaign outside a general election to put across Labour's plans to voters.

Mr Hamlyn, a multi-millionaire and longstanding Labour supporter, will finance more than half the campaign which includes delivering leaflets with a summary at every household.

Two million "credit cards" bearing Labour's five key

6 Dr Angry and Mr Competitiveness are hardly an ideal light comedy double act 9
- Peter Riddell, P12

manifesto pledges will also be sent to target households in the next few weeks. In a move that will infuriate activists the document cannot be amended; it will go out to the party on a "take it or leave it" basis.

But the Conservatives launched a pre-emptive strike against the Blair document, which will be released tomorrow.

Deploying parody as a political weapon, the party published a 24,000-word document called *The Road to Ruin: New Labour's Real Manifesto* in which it began

its new campaign to highlight the dangers of New Labour. On each left-hand page are sourced quotations from leading Labour figures, and on the right a satirical interpretation of what the words meant.

The paper suggests, for example, that the real Labour manifesto should contain pledges to create new communities "so that everybody is in bed by 10pm and not out shopping as they are under the Tories" and a new Europe in which "Britain is really nice and gets its way by agreeing to everyone else's suggestions."

The use of "negative campaigning" brought predictable complaints from Labour last night. But the launch hit an early snag when the Conservatives were accused of making a sick joke at the expense of David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, who is blind. It highlighted a pledge from him that "all check-ups

Visa trouble sends Blair's guru home

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

IMMIGRATION rules have deprived Tony Blair of his religious mentor. The Rev Peter Thomson, 60, was invited by Mr Blair to come to England and advise him in the run-up to the next election.

But only weeks after arriving in London - where he hoped to take the job of vicar of St Luke's, Holloway - the spiritual "guru" has been forced to return to Australia to

join the queue for visa entitling him to work instead of coming as a tourist.

Mr Blair's aides shrugged off the hitch, saying it would not affect the Labour leader, who would maintain telephone contact with Mr Thomson until he returns to Britain, probably before month's end.

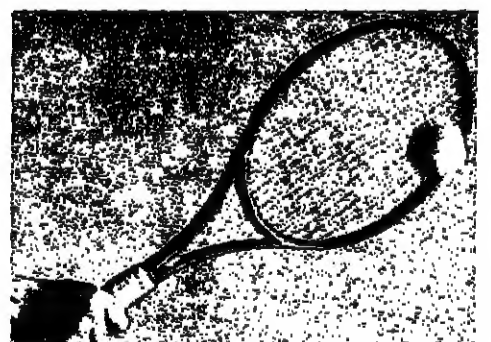
Mr Thomson's wife Helen, who remained at St Luke's while her husband flew home, said: "I think he is just in a queue like everyone else. There is no problem to my knowledge. I have my fingers crossed that he will be back in two weeks."

Mr Thomson's departure coincides with attacks on Mr Blair from Roman Catholics for taking Holy Communion at his wife's Catholic church in Highbury, north London, where his son Euan is an altar server.

As an Anglican, the Labour leader is not permitted by Catholic rules to receive communion.



Thomson: phone contact



MATCH POINT



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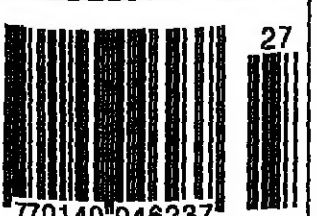
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| ROUND THE ISLANDS RACE, Isle of Wight | 28 June |
| VEOLIA GOLF CUP, Isle of Wight | 29 June-1 July |
| EDINBURGH ROYAL REGATTA | 3-7 July |
| SENIOR GOLFERS' TROPHY MATCH, Telford, Shropshire | 4-9 July |
| HAMPSTEAD COURT PALACE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW | 9-14 July |
| BURTON & BARNES CIVIC LEAGUE | 15 July |
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Dog-faced puffers and clownfish have their day

The cast list for parliamentary business yesterday included dog-faced puffers, tornado clownfish and red-bellied piranhas. And that was before the MPs attending Prime Minister's Questions came in.

The clownfish and their friends were introduced during questions to environment ministers.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham NW): "What applications under the Cites regulations have been made in respect of an aquarium in County Hall, London SE1?"

Mr James Clappison (the Minister): "None."

Madam Speaker: "Good answer."

Mr Banks: "You may say so, but in fact it's an unhelpful answer."

Madam Speaker: "At least a straightforward one."

... And off went Banks into his prepared rant. Before we proceed further, there are three things you need to know about Mr Banks. First, he was once a Labour councillor on the now-defunct Greater London Council and mourns its demise. Second, he is a great animal-lover and campaigns for badgers, foxes and whales.

Third, Mr Banks is a total



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

... how shall we put this? I have scoured my thesaurus for words which might fit. The relevant sections suggest: ape, baboon, bel esprit, buffoon, clown, gaillard, harlequin, jackanapes, jackass, jack-pudding, jester, joker, merryandrew, monkey, panaloon, pickleherring, scallywag, scaramouche, tomfool, wag, and wit. Also half-wit. A Scottish colleague adds barnpot, eejit, heidbanger.

and nump. Rather than settle on any particular word perhaps you will scan the whole list: from it, a picture of Mr Banks's contribution to modern British history may take shape.

Yesterday he told ministers that the former County Hall's new Japanese owners were planning an aquarium. That worried Mr Banks. Exotic fish would be kept there. And since (he said) the Japanese are

killing minke whales in the Antarctic to eat, under the guise of science, might their aquatic guests at County Hall face the same fate?

Readers need not trouble themselves wrestling with Mr Banks's argument. An MP's aim is not to persuade, but to score. Whales 1: Japs 0. Greater London Council 1: Tory self-off 0.

In was at this point when the minister, Mr Clappison, mentioned the exotic fish: dog-faced puffers, tornado clownfish and red-bellied piranhas. He left it to a junior shark, Bernard Jenkin (C, Colchester N), to remark that

some even more dangerous species had inhabited County Hall when Labour controlled the GLC. There, Tories 1: Labour 0. "New Labour, new danger," quipped Clappison. And to think we face a year of this. Spare us.

Besides, if it's a dog-faced puffer you seek, John Gummer on the front bench answered to the description yesterday.

As Labour's Tam Dalyell complained at points of order, the Environment Secretary spent his time swivelled round with his back to the Chair, ranting against the Labour Party for the benefit of the

Tory benches behind him. The House was in a boisterous mood. Tony Blair, vulnerable on devolution, cannily bogged PM's Questions down in a wrangle about something nobody could understand — Defence Ministry homes. John Major knocked Blair about a bit, but unmemorably, and everyone had a good yell.

Miss Boothroyd, who is coming near the end of her tether, suggested MPs stop their jeering and cheering. So next week we shall have calm. And Tony Banks will stop playing the fool. And pigs will fly.

Voluntary identity cards win backing

A voluntary identity card based on the new driving licence and including details of nationality should be introduced in the United Kingdom, a Commons committee recommended yesterday.

The card could be used as a driving licence and identity document and as an EU travel pass. But the Home Affairs select committee report opposed a compulsory national scheme after opposition from police and commercial organisations. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, is expected to announce plans for a voluntary card next month.

Becket boost

The campaign to save the historic Thomas Becket casket for the nation has been boosted by a donation of £25,000 from patrons of the Victoria & Albert Museum. The "Friends" of the museum decided to offer every last penny of their 1996 budget to try to save the reliquary casket, which will be sold by auction at Sotheby's tomorrow. Letters, page 21

Farmers lose out

Rural crime cost farmers £78.7 million last year, up 9.5 per cent on 1994, according to a report released by the NFU Mutual insurance company at the Royal Show at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire. About £63.9 million was accounted for by the theft of cars, tractors, motorcycles and other vehicles, particularly from farms near ports and the Channel Tunnel.

Ballast ban

Efforts to prevent ships discharging ballast water in harbours and around the coast were launched yesterday at the International Maritime Organisation meeting in London. The move, which is backed by Britain, comes after rising concern that the water spreads disease and foreign organisms that threaten native fish stocks and wildlife.

Caravan view

Owners of trailer caravans will not now have to buy a second television licence for their holiday home, the Government announced in the Commons. The Caravan Club had protested that members had to buy an additional licence even if they only used their mobile home for a few weeks a year. Owners of other, fixed, second homes will still need an extra licence.

Clean break

Makers of ITV's *Emmerdale* are planning to move filming of the soap from Esholt, West Yorkshire, to a purpose-built set within the grounds of Harewood House, near Leeds. Yorkshire TV, which makes the programme, believes that its plans to extend the show to three times a week will put too much pressure on the tiny village.

Wider remit

The Heritage Select Committee proposed that the powers of the Department for National Heritage be expanded to include the information superhighway, the gaming and betting industry and the BBC World Service. It also suggested that the department's name be changed to the Department of Communications and Heritage.

Eurovision hosts

Ireland's state-backed RTE broadcasting network has confirmed it will stage the Eurovision Song Contest next year. It won the right to host the TV extravaganza when the Irish entry won the competition for a record fourth time in five years in May. RTE staged the show from 1993 to 1995. No venue has yet been selected.

CORRECTION

Mr George Lindsay of Co Antrim, a survivor of the Somme, is contrary to a report (July 1), alive and well and aged 101.

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North Sea herring quota halved to rescue species

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

A CUT of 50 per cent in this year's North Sea herring catch was ordered by the European Commission yesterday to save rapidly dwindling stocks.

Acting under emergency rules that do not require negotiation with member states, the Commission said the measure was the only alternative to halting all fishing in the area. It compared the situation to that of the late 1970s, when herring fishing was banned for four years to allow stocks to recover.

Officials said Emma Bonino, the fisheries Commissioner, had agreed on the cut with Norway, which jointly manages North Sea fishing

with the EU. "It's an example of badly-managed stocks that are now in a state of collapse," Ms Bonino said last month after the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) found that high intensity fishing had reduced herring stocks to about half the level required to maintain the species.

The fishing industry, already in turmoil over EU calls for a 40 per cent cut in the fleet, had feared a complete ban on herring after the ICES report.

This year's total allowable catch, including Norway, has been cut from 313,000 tonnes to 156,000 tonnes. Britain's quota of the original was just

below 50,000 tonnes of the EU total of 222,000.

The Commission said it expected member states to police the new quotas and failure could lead to a halt to herring fishing. It said that fisheries ministers, who met in Luxembourg last month, had voiced few objections to the emergency measure.

The ICES report called for the 50 per cent cut after estimating total herring stocks in the area as 490,000. The action was welcomed by Ken Collins, a Scottish Labour MEP, who said: "It is time effective action was taken to protect fish stocks. But we need to balance this with

proper measures to look after fishermen too. There are ample mechanisms for compensating EU farmers in similar circumstances. They must be applied to the fishing sector."

Commission officials said compensation was being studied to offset the "considerable socio-economic effects" that would be generated by the cut. The herring quota cut will not have a huge impact on the British fishing industry (Michael Hornsby writes). The fish accounts for only 3 per cent of the value of the annual British catch.

Barrie Deas, chief executive of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, said: "Although herring is not a hugely valuable catch, the cut is still bad news for the boats which specialise in the fishery."

About 50 trawlers, operating mainly out of Fraserburgh, Peterhead and other Scottish ports, are estimated to be involved in herring fishing. "The boats are expensive," Mr Deas said. "They are fixed with purse seine nets which close like huge bags round whole shoals of fish which are then pumped into refrigerated seawater tanks aboard the trawler."

British fishermen have seen their annual herring quota slashed in less than a year from more than 64,200 tonnes to the new level of 22,200 tonnes.



Baroness Park's amendment could delay the sale

Government hint of concession on Forces home sale

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND JAMES LANDALE

THE Government sent out signals last night that it was preparing to give ground to avert defeat over the £1.6 billion sale of Armed Forces married quarters. Ministers and senior officials indicated that the plans had not been finalised and that changes could be made.

The moves came as a senior Conservative peer said that she was prepared to defy intense lobbying by ministers to drop an attempt to delay the sale. Baroness Park of Monmouth said that she would go ahead with a Lords amendment to the Housing Bill next week which would postpone the sell-off.

Tony Blair pressed John Major on the issue last night, and Labour announced that it intended to bring the matter to a vote in the Commons next week if Baroness Park's amendment fails.

Michael Portillo met backbench MPs last night to discuss the policy. Earlier Mr Major was forced into a robust defence of the Defence Secretary in the Commons as Mr Blair accused him of selling the homes to pay for pre-election tax cuts.

Mr Major was asked whether there was a "get Portillo" campaign by some members of the Tory party who wished to diminish his leadership chances. The Prime Minister replied: "Mr Portillo, like me, is determined to

ensure the best possible accommodation for servicemen and to ensure that an extra £100 million is available to be spent upon them."

Ministers say the planned sell-off later this year of 60,000 homes will not only fill Treasury coffers but will provide £100 million to upgrade the homes. There were indications last night, however, that ministers could agree to provide further cash as a compromise to defuse the dispute.

Senior government officials made clear that the precise details of the sale would be finalised over the next four weeks, before a decision is reached on which of four commercial bids to accept.

Baroness Park, a former MP, has won the support of Lord Chalfont, a former Labour Defence Minister, and other senior peers. The pending revolt in the Lords was causing such alarm in Downing Street yesterday that she and Lord Chalfont were invited to talks to discuss their anxieties.

Baroness Park's amendment, due to be discussed on Thursday, calls for Mr Portillo to consult further with Forces families living in married quarters and then to seek approval for the sale from both Houses of Parliament. This could delay the sale until after the summer recess.

Letters, page 21

Tory party turns to satire

Continued from page 1 would be free" and then said in the sham manifesto that what he really meant to say was: "We think the provision of free eye tests for millionaires is a health priority." There were protests and Mr Blunkett called for a withdrawal. "Let me tell them that there is not a millionaire in the world who would not give all their millions to ensure that they have the benefit of sight," he said.

Michael Heseltine and Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, unveiled the document, largely the brainchild of Danny Finkelstein, head of Tory research, Tim Collins, former communications director, and Thomas O'Malley, central office's chief "Labour watcher".

Party sources said they had accepted it ran the risk of

criticism from journalists, who appeared unimpressed at yesterday's launch, but that it would go down well with MPs and activists. It was felt to be a dramatic way of drawing attention to Labour's new plans.

Mr Mawhinney warned a private meeting of Tory backbenchers last night to expect the worst. He said that MPs should be braced for a poor media response to the launch of the advertising campaign because the press had "no sense of humour".

Mr Mawhinney and Mr Heseltine adopted the role of comedy duo at the launch, taking it in turn to read out lines from *Road to Ruin*.

But the difficulties within the Cabinet of coming to terms with the new strategy of accepting that Mr Blair has changed his party and turning

apparent.

Mr Mawhinney said: "The issue is not whether Labour has changed. It is now clear that it has."

Mr Heseltine said: "New Labour. You can change the name. But you can't change the instincts. The old policies are in many ways there under the new policies."

Both agreed, however, that Labour was unfit to govern and would raise taxes, destroy jobs and put the unions back in control.

The five key pledges to be enshrined on the plastic "real cards" are: a commitment to reduce class sizes; to guarantee every young person a job or training; to transfer money from NHS bureaucracy to patient care; to combat youth crime; and to have a strong economy which is not based on tax, spend or borrowing.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JULY 3 1996

Beauty dies battling the beasts that torment one of America's most famous clans

Family 'curse' claims another Hemingway

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

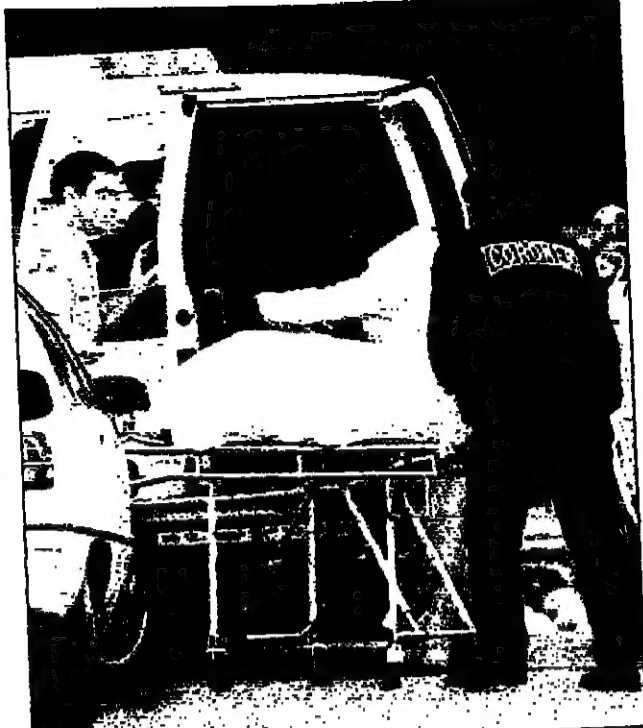
HOLLYWOOD spoke yesterday of a "curse of the Hemingways" after the shocking death of the beautiful Margot Hemingway, 41, was found dead in her flat almost 35 years to the day after her grandfather, Ernest, his mind awash with drink and wasted words, killed himself in Ketchum, Idaho.

Friends discovered the body of the former model and actress after going to her new apartment in Santa Monica on Monday to help her to finish moving in. When no one answered the door they summoned a workman who climbed on to a balcony to look inside. He found a crumpled body, dressed but lifeless. She had been dead at least two days, police said, and was identified by dental records.

It was a lonely death for the woman who was once the best-paid model in the world, with a contract worth more than \$1 million to promote a perfume. She had stepped off a bus in New York in 1974 and instantly been accepted as an adornment to the social scene that revolved around nightclubs such as Studio 54. Stars such as Liza Minnelli accepted her as one of their own. "Baby," as Hollywood producer Dino De Laurentis told her, "I'll make you a star."

Her death was not being treated as suspicious. There were no signs of forced entry, no signs of foul play, no note to indicate suicide. Gary Galliot, of the police department, said, "No guns or illegal substances were found in the apartment."

Hemingway followers, however, talked of the demons that seem to haunt the family, and noted the way that the off-kilter Margot, like her grandfather, turned to drink in moments of despair.



Miss Hemingway's body was found, above, almost 35 years to the day after her grandfather's death

MR. HEMINGWAY DIES IN GUN ACCIDENT

SHOT IN HEAD

From Our Own Correspondent

NEW YORK, July 3. Ernest Hemingway, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author, died today from a gunshot wound to the head. The shooting occurred in his home in Ketchum, Idaho, at about 7.30 pm. The cause of death was a gunshot wound to the head. The shooting occurred in his home in Ketchum, Idaho, at about 7.30 pm. The cause of death was a gunshot wound to the head.



life to the fullest, with gusto. But in 1987 she admitted that she was "so screwed up I can't finish a sentence" and was admitted to the Betty Ford Clinic for treatment for alcoholism.

The drinking contributed to epileptic fits, and dulled what acting abilities she had. For all De Laurentis's brave words, the stardom proved elusive. The only thing Miss Hemingway seemed good at, was being herself. Her debut film, *Lip*

stick, was a turkey and she was doomed to a career of B movies. There were also family pressures, not least the knowledge that four relatives died at their own hands and that alcoholism ran in the clan. Her cousin, Lorian Hemingway, put the family addiction rate at "more than 75 per cent". She was born Margot but changed her Christian name at 17 to Margaux when she learned that on the night she

was conceived her parents had been drinking Chateau Margaux, her grandfather's favourite wine. When she was in the Betty Ford Clinic she pondered the sense of having a name with such richly alcoholic echoes, and later switched back to Margot.

After the clinic, Miss Hemingway appeared to rally, and found the confidence to pose nude for *Playboy*. She had recently started narrating a television nature series. She endured diabetes, bulimia and divorce, but appeared to be going in the right direction until the middle of June. Then, according to her agent, David Mirisch, she for some reason stopped being "the Margot Hemingway that we all know as far as having that 'up' personality".

After moving into the apartment, Miss Hemingway had encountered problems with her landlady and, according to neighbours, had slipped into despair. One local resident, Peter Osterlund, reported the last sighting of Miss Hemingway, Saturday, about 7pm, when in the old days she would have been calling for a third cocktail but was now simply looking "haggard and sad" as she walked down the main street.

Another neighbour, Mark Stern, said that he had found her in her car at midnight last week. "She was shaking. She was upset," he said. "There was apparently making so much noise next door that she could not sleep."

Miss Hemingway, who grew up in the family compound in Ketchum, was one of three daughters born to Ernest's son Jack. "There was my big sister Muffet and my little sister Mariel," she said. "I was a middle kid. They forgot about me."

But now they are remembering, and as the blanketed stretcher was wheeled out of her flat towards the coroner's van for the trip to the morgue, bystanders clapped their hands and watched in sorrow. A pathologist's report will be prepared. Mr Mirisch speculated that the cause of death was an epileptic fit.

Her sister Mariel seems to have escaped the family curse.



A perfume contract made Margot Hemingway the world's highest-paid model

Her finest hour came when she received an Oscar nomination at 17 for the Woody Allen film *Manhattan*. She had breast implants for a film about the glamour model Dorothy Stratten, but shed them later saying "they're not my style". She was now married to a restaurateur and has two daughters.

For Margot, the sibling success must have been hard to bear. Mr Mirisch said: "Even though Margot was not the greatest actress in the world she had personality, and people wanted to be with her." He added that the television nature programme she had recently started was intended to be a route to new showbusiness success. "We really felt this series was going to bring her back."

Earlier yesterday, the court heard from a girl who claimed she was approached by Hughes only hours before he is alleged to have murdered Sophie Hook, but ran to her grandmother's home where she had been spending the afternoon. The trial continues.

My son admitted murder, says father

BY KATE ALDERSON

THE father of the man accused of murdering Sophie Hook told a hushed courtroom yesterday that his son confessed to him after he had been arrested that he had killed the seven-year-old girl.

Gerald Hughes, a building contractor from Colwyn Bay, Cwyd, said he was in turmoil after his son, Howard, told him: "Yes Dad, I did it."

Clutching the witness stand, Mr Hughes told the jury at Chester Crown Court that he had known Sophie's family for many years. He said he visited his son in Llandudno police station four days after Sophie had been murdered. Hughes, 31, denies murdering and raping Sophie on July 30 last year after she was snatched from a tent in her uncle's garden in Llandudno, north Wales.

Hughes's father, grey-haired and wearing a grey suit, said he asked his son: "I want to know whether or not you committed this offence."

He told the jury that his son asked him to go to the corner of the room where they could not be seen or heard. "And then he said, 'Yes Dad, I did it' and he related how it had come about without any further prompting."

He told the court his son said he had seen some children playing in a tent in a garden on the afternoon of July 29. He had asked one of the girls to come with him but she refused, the court heard.

He told his father that he returned to the garden at about 2am the next morning, the court heard, and this time persuaded the little girl to go with him. "I asked him if he had sexually assaulted her and he said 'Yes Dad, I did'."

Mr Hughes told the court he asked his son where he had disposed of Sophie's nightdress. With the help of a map, Hughes told his father the whereabouts of the clothes and the route he had cycled home.

Earlier yesterday, the court heard from a girl who claimed she was approached by Hughes only hours before he is alleged to have murdered Sophie Hook, but ran to her grandmother's home where she had been spending the afternoon. The trial continues.

Obituary, page 23

Jury shown film of aircraft hitting and killing soldier

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A VIDEO film showing the moment a soldier was killed in an alleged game of "chicken" as he was buzzed by a low-flying RAF Hercules was shown to a jury yesterday. The film captured the transport aircraft in a low pass over South Cerney military airfield near Cirencester, Gloucestershire, in August 1994.

Private Christopher Game, 22, from Poole, Dorset, who was standing on his recovery truck roof, died from multiple injuries when struck by the rear ramp of the aircraft, which was flying at 140mph, 12ft to 14ft from the ground.

The four-minute video, captured on film shot from inside the Hercules, was the last of 21 shown during prosecution evidence at the Bristol Crown Court trial of the Hercules pilot, Squadron Leader Michael Morison, 42. He denies the

manslaughter of Private Game, a single man, on the afternoon of August 4.

For some minutes, the aircraft circled woods and fields before coming in over the airfield. The jury then saw only a blur of movement as the private's body fell from the roof of his truck's cab and a piece of the aircraft's lowered rear ramp was seen tumbling to the ground.

Private Game's divorced mother, Rose, sat in court as the film was shown. Alun Jenkins, for the prosecution, slowed the closing sequences to show the frame-by-frame movement.

The prosecution says there was a practice among the Hercules crew, including Squadron Leader Morison, to make very low-level passes after a completed drop operation. Those unauthorised

passes were said to have had no operational value and were aimed at creating excitement and bravado among the air crew and people on the ground.

Mark Evans, QC, for the Crown, said: "It was a game that could be described in some ways as playing chicken." The squadron leader had aimed the aircraft with the intention of passing low and "buzzing" Private Game and others in the drop zone, he said.

Both men were stationed at Brize Norton, Oxfordshire. Private Game was the driver of a recovery truck fitted with a jib crane. The crane controls were on the roof of his cab.

The prosecution maintains the pilot was criminally negligent because of the risk involved. The trial continues.

Police stalk toddler and his toy gun

BY CAROL MIDDLEY

POLICE, who surrounded a car after being told that there was a gunman inside, found a three-year-old boy playing with a toy pistol. Scott Schillemore, had been given the plastic cap-gun to keep him quiet while his mother did her shopping but passers-by in Portsmouth mistook the child for an armed kidnapper.

Officers followed the boy, his mother, Marie, 28, and her parents as they made the mile-long journey to their home. When their car stopped it was surrounded by officers in flak jackets. The occupants were ordered to stand with their hands on the car roof while they were searched.

Sergeant Colin Michie of Portsmouth police control room said officers had responded to two calls saying a "male" had been seen waving a gun.

P.D. James leads scathing attack on Birt's World Service reforms

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

P.D. JAMES, the best-selling novelist, mounted a scathing attack on John Birt, Director-General of the BBC and its chairman Sir Christopher Bland yesterday over their plans to reorganise and break up the World Service.

Baroness James, a former BBC governor, said that Mr Birt and Sir Christopher had displayed "extraordinary arrogance" in announcing a radical shake-up of the World Service without consulting its staff.

Speaking at a lobby of Parliament organised to mobilise public and political opposition to the reforms, she said she did not know whether to be more appalled by the reorganisation itself or by the way it was announced.

"Arrogance, extraordinary arrogance, I would like to say, both to John Birt, and to the new Chairman — they do not own the BBC. The World



P.D. James was highly critical of the reforms and how they have been introduced by John Birt



Service is not a private company. It belongs to this country and ... the people the world."

Lady James said that millions of people throughout the world depended on the World Service adding that "it would be absolutely scandalous if two men are allowed to destroy it". She was joined at the

rally by Terry Waite and John McCarthy, the former Beirut hostages; Mark Tully, the BBC's former Delhi correspondent; Ben Okri, the Booker Prize winning novelist, and Charles Kennedy, the Liberal Democrat MP.

Mr Waite, who listened to the World Service when he was a hostage, said he was

"offended and insulted" by the BBC's plans. The World Service, like other cherished British institutions, was being "smashed" for economic reasons with no real understanding of its aims.

Given that the BBC charter calls for public consultation before any major changes are made ... how do the governors explain the secrecy surrounding the changes announced by the Director General and the lack of consultation within the Corporation let alone with any member of the public?

Under Mr Birt's plans, which were kept secret until a hastily called press conference last month, the World Service will have to buy in its English language news reports and entertainment programming from two centralised BBC News and BBC Production divisions, which will also be serving the BBC's domestic departments. However, it will retain direct control for its vernacular services.

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Hospital blamed in report on overdose death

■ A professor of obstetric anaesthesia who investigated a patient's death from a drug overdose found seven errors made by the hospital, Dominic Kennedy reports

THE private hospital where a woman patient was injected with ten times the correct dose of painkiller was partly to blame for her death, an expert medical report says.

Princess Grace Hospital in London is one of the most renowned in Britain and charges £416 a day. Its patients have included the footballer Paul Gascoigne and the actress Wendy Richard.

But the hospital was negligent in its care for Carole Burwash, 53, according to Felicity Reynolds, professor of obstetric anaesthesia, who prepared a report on the death for a police investigation ordered by the Westminster Coroner.

Yesterday Mrs Burwash's husband, Brian, a businessman, said: "The hospital has thick carpets and the wine list has super Chablis. But they didn't bloody well have an anaesthetist late at night to save my wife."

Mrs Burwash, a fit housewife whose hobbies were golf, tennis and swimming, needed a hysterectomy because of

problems associated with the menopause. She was admitted to the hospital in Marylebone, west London, last October. The nursing admission report described her as "feeling very anxious about both surgery and anaesthetic. Also anxious about post-op pain and being left alone."

After a successful operation, Mrs Burwash, a grandmother and mother of three, was visited in her private room by her husband and their son Rupert, 22, during the evening. They found her in happy mood, free from pain.

At 10pm, she began experiencing some pain, as would be expected, and required a top-up of epidural opiate.

She should have been given 3mg of diamorphine, a controlled drug. But the prescription had been written wrongly by the anaesthetist, Giok Lim. It appeared to say "30gm" but since this would be much more than an expected dose, it was misinterpreted by the staff nurse and the resident medical officer, Richard Hornabrook, as 30mg, which



Giok Lim, whose prescription for diamorphine was misinterpreted, and Brian Burwash, second right, with his sons and daughter yesterday



was still ten times too much. At 10.40pm, Mrs Burwash was found collapsed. Dr Hornabrook tried to resuscitate her but had no specific training in the required technique.

Just before 11pm, Dr Lim was telephoned and he arrived 15 minutes later. He provided the correct resuscitation method, intubation, which involves passing a breathing tube into the windpipe. The 35-minute

delay before Mrs Burwash was effectively resuscitated would have contributed to her death, three days later, from brain damage, according to Professor Reynolds's report for the police. The Crown Prosecution Service decided against criminal charges.

Professor Reynolds identified seven errors that led to the death. She said Dr Lim was most responsible for negligence because of his incorrect

written prescription and the absence of direct communication with Dr Hornabrook.

The hospital was negligent because it had no trained resuscitation team, no protocol for epidural opioids and had appointed an RMO without anaesthetic experience.

Her report said: "Probably the most important inherent drawback of a private hospital, or indeed any small isolated hospital, is that there is no

resident anaesthetist to top up epidurals and, above all, to provide an efficient resuscitation service. Any medicine or surgery practised under such circumstances is therefore inevitably less safe than a National Health Service Hospital with an appropriate complement of resident staff."

Mr Burwash, 60, a leading figure in the recruitment business, had bought a home on Alderney to which he and his

wife intended to retire. She was a popular hostess at dinner parties, an active member of Hampstead Parish Church and drove her husband to work every day. Her organs have been transplanted into seven people.

Mr Burwash, who wants compensation from the hospital, said: "The CPS lacked the courage to bring criminal charges against those who killed my wife."

Overdose death

Continued from page 1

emergency resuscitation. He had been on duty for 14 hours when he was asked to top up Mrs Burwash's epidural, although he said that did not affect his judgment. Both he and the staff nurse, Mandy Hatcher, had read the drug chart as saying 30mg.

The coroner agreed that the entry on the chart was unclear — although on balance he thought it read 3 rather than 30 — but even after Dr Hornabrook overdose had been given, vital clues were missed.

Although large doses of painkiller were not unusual at the hospital, only small amounts should have been given by epidural. And when nurses noticed that Mrs Burwash had fallen asleep within a minute, alarm bells should have rung as it was one of the first signs of respiratory difficulties.

Then, when it came to the resuscitation attempt, there was no back-up. Dr Hornabrook was the only doctor on duty and it was not until Dr Lim was called from home that a tube could be placed into Mrs Burwash's throat to help her breathe.

Felicity Reynolds, a professor in obstetric anaesthesia, said Mrs Burwash might have lived, but the staff failed to recognise the danger signals of massive overdosing and did not act swiftly enough. The hospital did not have an adequate crash team on site. She added that in all

hospitals, NHS and private, doctors were expected to be jack-of-all-trades, but this was not easy to do.

Mr Burwash told the inquest that at around 1am he was telephoned by the consultant in charge of her case who said there had been an appalling mistake. He raced to the hospital and spoke with Dr Hornabrook. "He was contrite and made no attempt to hide away. He came out and told me face-to-face," Mrs Burwash was transferred to the Middlesex NHS hospital, where she died three days later.

Yesterday, Mr Burwash said that he would be taking civil action against the Princess Grace, although no amount of money would replace his wife. "I would pay a million pounds to have her back. But I can never have her back. I feel very disappointed about both doctors," he said.

The coroner said that he would be writing to the hospital urging it to keep its procedures constantly under review, but Keith Erskine, chief executive of the Princess Grace Hospital, said last night that already happened. There had been an internal inquiry into the death of Mrs Burwash and Dr Hornabrook and Miss Hatcher had been suspended, but both had since been reinstated.

Mr Erskine said: "Fundamentally the hospital has always felt it was the most tragic of accidents. All our sympathies are with the family."

Doctors who hid cancer biopsy error are cleared

By DIANA THORP

TWO doctors who did not tell a young mother dying of cancer that two biopsies had been wrongly diagnosed were found not guilty of serious professional misconduct yesterday.

The professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council concluded that the evidence against Christopher Simpson, 48, a consultant surgeon, and Dr James Ferguson, 59, the medical director of South Ayrshire Hospitals NHS Trust, was insufficient to support a finding of serious professional misconduct.

Carol Ann Clark, 32, died in August 1994 of breast cancer after two biopsies in August and September 1993 were wrongly diagnosed. The mother of two and part-time auxiliary nurse became pregnant after the all-clear and had to have a termination when the cancer was diagnosed in February 1994.

Mrs Clark was not told about the wrong diagnoses of the biopsies, which were discovered in February 1994. Mr Clark learnt about them only at a meeting with Mr Simpson in October 1994. It had been alleged that Mrs Clark was not informed because the doctors feared a big compensation claim.

Philip Gaisford, counsel for Mr Simpson, told the hearing that there was no duty in 1993 for a doctor to answer questions about mistakes in past treatment, especially by other people. He said the first impulse of any doctor was to act in the best interest of the patient. It was not Mr Simp-

son's mistake but the mistake of a pathologist that caused the error.

"Mr Simpson was making a decision in what he perceived to be the best interest of the patient," Mr Gaisford said. "He did not keep it to himself. He told Dr Ferguson on the evidence and he told the general practitioner as well."

"There is no evidence here that he was connected with any cover-up. There was no evidence that he was told of the death of Mrs Clark. There is no evidence that Mr Simpson could have benefited from any cover-up."

Mr Gaisford said Mr Simpson admitted the charge that he had been informed in February 1994 that there was a reporting error in the biopsies, but denied the allegation that at a meeting with Mr and Mrs Clark on May 17, 1994 he was asked about the results of two biopsies.

He had also admitted he did not disclose to Mrs Clark that the report of the biopsies had been found to be incorrect. Dr Ferguson denied charges that a letter he wrote to Mr Clark before the death was misleading.

Outside the hearing yesterday Mr Clark said knowing the truth would have made a difference to him and his wife.

He said that the decision was "obviously disappointing". However, he hoped everything that had come out during the case would make the South Ayrshire NHS Trust and the two doctors concerned review their relationships with patients and relatives. The doctors left without comment.



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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JULY 3 1996

Quarter-finalist follows in footsteps of great grandmother, grandmother, grandfather and mother

Wimbledon hope Henman keeps the family flag flying

By ADRIAN LEE AND JOANNA BAILE

WHEN Tim Henman strides onto the Centre Court at Wimbledon today, the first Briton to appear in a men's quarter final for 23 years, he will be carrying on a family tradition that stretches over four generations.

Henman's 84-year-old grandmother Susan Billington, the last woman to serve underarm at the championships, will be there to watch, no doubt remembering her late husband Henry, a Wimbledon star of the 1940s.

His great grandmother, Ellen Mary Stawell-Brown, Mrs Billington's mother, astonished society by becoming the first woman to serve overarm at Wimbledon, scoring a famous victory over the five times champion, Charlotte "Chatty" Cooper.

Speaking at her home in Thatcham, Berkshire, Mrs Billington, who is a member of the All England Club and watched her 21-year-old grandson's last match against the Swede Magnus Gustaf-

sson from the royal box, said: "Tim reminds me very much of my late husband. I am extremely proud that he is following in his footsteps, as are the rest of the family."

From birth, Henman has been steeped in the tennis tradition. He began playing at the age of three on a court at his home in Oxford, coached by his mother Jane, who played Junior Wimbledon.

He says: "When I got older I liked to think that I was following in my grandfather's footsteps by playing at Wimbledon, but probably the most important factor from my background was that we had a court at home, and I always had someone to practise with."

After being trained as a child by David Lloyd, Henman left school at 16 with ten GCSEs to concentrate on his tennis career. He joined the junior tour and steadily made his name on the international circuit. He did not come to the attention of most tennis fans until last year's Wimbledon when he was disqualified and fined nearly £2,000 for gross code violations during a doubles match. He hit a ball girl when smashing a ball in a fit of temper.

This week, with "Henmania" reaching fever pitch, fans have been queuing for tickets since Monday morning. At their head is a 79-year-old gentleman who has camped on the pavement each year for a quarter of a century. In 1973 Bob Sunley, from Armanford, Dyfed, saw the Briton Roger Taylor play during the championships but missed the quarter final.

Mr Sunley, a former accountant, is on first name terms with his neighbours in the queue and last night they had a barbecue. Armed with a weighty Mary Wesley novel, a supply of crosswords and a



Tim Henman, relaxing yesterday ahead of the quarter final, said he was trying to concentrate on the match, not the hype surrounding it

one-man tent, Mr Sunley said he was never bored.

"One can always lie back and have a sleep, and fortunately I am retired so I have nothing very much to do," he said.

As the line grew, beneath a cardboard sign marked "This is the Q for Tim on Wednesday", excitement was already high. "Henman clearly has great potential and let's hope he makes the top grade," Mr Sunley said.

"I saw Roger Taylor beat Borg in '73 but didn't realise then how good a player Borg was going to be. It is against the odds for Henman to win, but it would be wonderful."

Mr Sunley, who said his

wife hated tennis and viewed his annual pilgrimages with "amused tolerance", once travelled from Africa, where he was working, to take his place in the Wimbledon queue. To mark his twenty-first year on the pavement outside the gates, he was presented with free tickets by officials.

Henman spent some of yesterday practising on outside courts as Todd Martin, his 26-year-old American opponent, the number 13 seed, completed a four-set victory over Thomas Johansson.

As he left his flat in Chiswick, west London, Henman said playing in front of a home audience was "special". But he was trying to focus on the

game rather than the hype surrounding it.

Martin said he was relishing the prospect of becoming the most hated man on Centre Court and would try to block out the crowd. "It's a tennis match, I've got to go out there and do my job."

He paid tribute to the Englishman. "Everything has improved. He has added a few pounds and that has helped his weight of shot and his serve has got better."

The pair have met once previously at Queens when Martin, born in Illinois but now a resident of Florida, won. He held the distinction of being the tallest player — 6ft 6ins — since 1973 to enter the

tennis world top ten, when he reached number five two years ago. He reached the semi-final at Wimbledon in the same year and has won more than £2 million prize money.

Henman yesterday won support from the man he is emulating, Roger Taylor. At Wimbledon for a veterans' game, Taylor said he believed Henman was capable of getting to the final. "What sets him aside from the other British players, perhaps, is his temperament. He can handle the pressure as he gets close to making a semi-final or final."

In his home village of Weston-on-the-Green, Oxfordshire, supporters are willing Henman to victory. His local

pub, the Ben Jonson, has created a cocktail called the Henman Smash.

Jane Henman yesterday bought supplies of bananas from the village store: her son eats 2lbs of them a day.

Staff and pupils at Henman's Oxford preparatory school, the Dragon, were also cheering on their old boy. Roger Trafford, the head teacher, said: "We're obviously extremely proud of him. It's not just the fact Tim is playing excellent tennis, it's the way he has conducted himself, too. This is exactly the kind of example we want our pupils to follow."

Wimbledon, pages 48, 49, 52



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Shake-up aims to curb £1.4bn costs of justice

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS to curb the £1.4 billion cost of the legal aid scheme, by controlling costs and making everyone pay towards their legal bills, were announced by the Lord Chancellor yesterday.

In the biggest shake-up of the scheme since its creation 46 years ago, a White Paper set out the first controls on what has always been a demand-led scheme. Cash limits will be placed on the legal aid budget and lawyers will no longer be paid by hourly rates. Legal services will come from a range of sources as well as lawyers, including citizens' advice bureaux and law centres. They will be awarded block contracts to provide services in bulk, within fixed budgets and on condition that they meet strict quality criteria.

Everyone, including the low-paid, will have to pay a contribution to costs in civil and criminal cases. They will also be liable for an opponent's costs should they lose. The White Paper, called *Striking the Balance*, aims to stop the injustice of the present system for those facing legally aided opponents. It also hopes to prevent the "waste" caused by pursuing weak and trivial cases. Each case will be considered under tough standards of "deservingness".

The plans announced by

- MAIN POINTS**
- Cash limits on the legal aid scheme
 - Legal services to be delivered by range of providers, working to quality controls and fixed budgets
 - Sanctions on unsatisfactory providers
 - Payment required: flat rate plus ongoing contributions in both civil and criminal legal aid
 - Liability for opponent's costs
 - Legal Aid Board to have power to recoup costs from future sale of a home
 - Test of "deservingness", including chance of success
 - Separate budget for major, expensive cases

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, will revolutionise the present system, introducing elements of the private sector and an NHS-style internal market into legal services.

Lord Mackay said that the reforms were aimed at creating a legal aid scheme "that, pound for pound, buys more and better services; that targets those services only on cases that deserve support by the taxpayer; and which is fairer to the opponents of legally aided people".

In 1995/96, legal aid cost the taxpayer £1.4 billion, twice as much as five years ago. The average cost of legal aid bills has risen more than the rate of inflation and stands at nearly £2,500. But fewer people are helped by the scheme. Only about 50 per cent of households are eligible, compared with 70 per cent in the early 1980s.

Instead of the Government

paying all legal aid bills as they arrive, in future it will determine what money should be spent, how and on whom. Contracts will be awarded on a rolling basis and will not be renewed at the same time to quell fears that people would be denied access to justice because funds had run out at the end of the year.

The Government's arrival as a big purchaser of legal services is expected to have a knock-on effect in the private sector, with insurance companies offering legal services for fixed rates. Legal expenses insurance and "no win, no fee" fees may also have a significant role.

People with legal expenses insurance will not be eligible for legal aid, regardless of means. The Government is considering whether to make it a rule that a person seeks legal advice on a "no win, no fee" basis before being allowed legal aid.

The White Paper says: "Solicitors and barristers in private practice will continue to play the largest role." But advice agencies, salaried lawyers, mediators and others will play a part. The public will be encouraged to seek ways of settling disputes outside the courts.

Under the proposals, to be phased in over several years if approved, there will be a flat-rate fee in civil and family cases, possibly £10 to £20, payable by all including those receiving benefits. Further contributions will be sought from those who can afford them.

There will be an upper limit on contributions, and possibly a time limit set for payments. The Legal Aid Board will be able to recover any outstanding costs from the future sale of a legally aided person's house.

Everyone will also have to pay towards criminal legal aid. This will be awarded, as now, on the basis of the "interests of justice". Those on benefits will be entitled to a "free" first court appearance. Others will pay a fixed contribution.

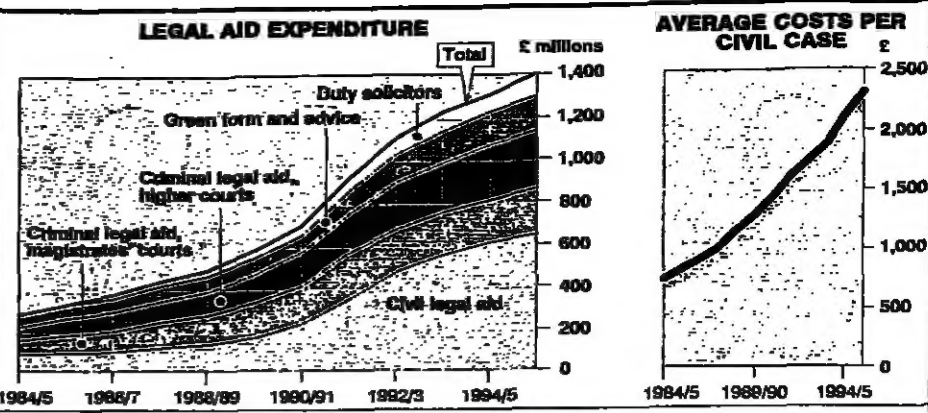
For further hearings, contributions will be decided by means testing. The amount will be refunded in the event of a defendant being acquitted.

At the heart of the plans is a determination to restore balance to the legal aid system, which is now often seen to



Lord Mackay, above, redrafting the legal aid system that was launched 46 years ago by Viscount Jowitt, below

Legal aid budget: £1.48 billion for 1996/97 — down £150 million on original government estimate after savings of £240 million over three years. Where the money goes: more than two thirds on civil legal aid, the rest on criminal. People helped: 3.5 million. Ninety per cent of legally aided litigants win their case or an out-of-court settlement. Solicitors doing legal aid: 11,000 offices around the country, of which 1,350 are franchise holders. Who is eligible? Basic legal advice: only those with a weekly disposable income below £75 qualify. Civil legal aid: less than half all households compared with nearly three quarters in 1979. Criminals: in practice, anyone facing a serious charge. Eighty-six per cent of people currently receive legal aid without paying any contribution (most are on state benefits). The average civil legal aid case costs £2,200. The soaring costs in legal aid of the late Eighties and early Nineties are levelling off. The annual gross rise for 1995/96 is estimated at 5 per cent compared with 32 per cent in 1991/92.



operate at the expense of those who fall outside the legal aid limits. The White Paper says: "The needs of people who require help must be balanced against the rights of their unassisted opponents, and of victims and witnesses, to fair treatment."

There is also the "interests of the taxpayer in ensuring that public spending is controlled, and that money is not wasted on undeserving cases

but is made to go as far as it can to meet genuine need". People should pay what they reasonably can towards their legal aid bills, the White Paper says, and, if appropriate, towards their opponent's cost. It adds that people forced to defend a case against someone on legal aid rarely recover their costs, although the court has a discretion to award these in cases of severe financial hardship. The White Paper

says legally aided litigants should be in the same position as any other litigant.

It proposes a new test under which the court should award costs to prevent any opponent suffering financial hardship. But the legally aided litigant will not be ordered to pay more to the other side than the actual costs of the case.

The Government believes that the reforms will be a "vote-catcher" that will appeal

to Middle England, on the grounds of giving the taxpayer better value for money and ensuring that middle-income groups are not vulnerable to an open-ended legal aid ticket to sue.

□ *Striking the Balance: the Future of Legal Aid in England and Wales* (Stationery Office; £11.80)

Leading article, page 21

CASES THAT TRIGGERED LEGAL AID DEBATE

How public money went to 'rich and undeserving'

LEGAL aid payments have repeatedly caused controversy as public money has been handed out in cases that appeared trivial or undeserving and to claimants who seemed to have access to ample funds of their own.

Announcing his plans to reorganise the system last week, Lord Mackay of Clashfern admitted that public confidence in legal aid was at "a dangerously low ebb".

Before the current case of the cancer patient Cyril Smith, given legal aid to sue the health service because he was told he had only months to live, the following actions made news:

Simon Foster, a former RAF officer, was awarded legal aid last month to try to force his health authority to give him a sex change.

A feud between neighbours, which began during the 1984 pit strike and was concluded

in court last month with the judge ordering each to pay the other £75, cost taxpayers a five-figure legal aid bill.

Jawad Hashim, one-time aide to the Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, obtained £4 million legal aid although he had six homes around the world. He was defending a £34 million civil fraud claim brought by the Arab Monetary Fund.

A German inventor living in Italy sued Sony in the High Court in April at a cost to the British taxpayer of £900,000.

A robber turned informer was given aid in February to sue a chief constable over allegedly unpaid "tip-off fees".

Legal aid was granted to Steve Charalambous, an armed robber, so he could sue police for the "pain and distress" caused when he was shot during a robbery. The aid was later withdrawn. A car thief was given aid in Febru-

ary to sue Devon County Council after trapping his finger in a cell door.

The Moors murderer Ian Brady was awarded aid in January to pursue a privacy action against a newspaper.

Roger Levitt, the wealthy insurance businessman, was aided when convicted of fraud in 1994 and sentenced to 180 hours' community service. He and three other defendants were estimated to have cost the taxpayer £3.7 million.

The financier Peter Clowes, jailed for ten years for defrauding Barlow Clowes shareholders, was given aid but he and his wife were later ordered to pay damages of at least £6 million to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Ernest Saunders, the former £350,000-a-year chairman of Guinness, was on legal aid when he faced a fraud charge and a £5 billion civil claim after the takeover of Distillers.

When an unjust scheme left a winning litigant out of pocket

A CIVIL servant in Liverpool found himself with a bill of £20,000 after he successfully defended a claim on behalf of his wife's late parents. Michael Derbyshire's case is typical of the injustice under the present legal aid scheme by which a winning litigant can be out of pocket after being forced to court by someone on legal aid.

The dispute was over the ownership of a run-down two-roomed property, the Toll House at Cwmduad near Carmarthen, Dyfed. Mr Derbyshire's father-in-law, the late

Leslie Hartley, took a weekly tenancy of the house 30 years ago and agreed a rent with Elizabeth Jones, who claimed to be the owner. Counter-

ownership claims led to a dispute and Mr Hartley found himself facing conflicting demands for rent. He said he would pay no more until the dispute was settled.

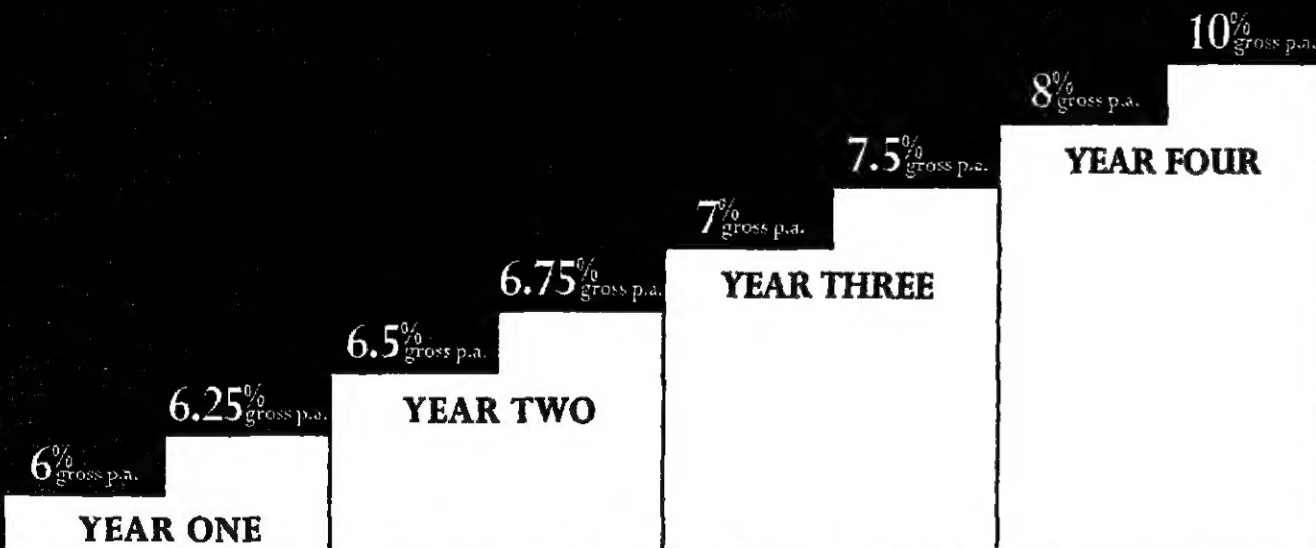
Mrs Jones died. But her son had married and separated and his estranged wife's daughter was granted legal aid to pursue the claim against the Hartleys. Mr Hartley died and his widow, Margaret,

faced a claim for possession, rent arrears and damages.

The case was thrown out but went to appeal — again on legal aid. Mrs Hartley died before it was heard and Mr Derbyshire felt morally obliged to take over as defendant. Again, the claim was thrown out but he has still failed to recoup costs of about £20,000 from the Legal Aid Board. He was offered £3,500.

John Conlon, his solicitor, yesterday said: "Whether the reforms go far enough to rectify this injustice we shall have to wait and see."

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Woman whose main occupation was said to be shopping must make do on £8.8m

Billionaire's ex-wife faces £1.5m bill for divorce challenge

By MICHAEL HORSVELL

AN AMERICAN socialite who demanded a bigger divorce settlement from her billionaire husband yesterday lost a Court of Appeal attempt to increase her £8.85 million award. She now faces a £1.5 million bill for legal costs.

Karina Dart, 38, whose principal occupation was said to be shopping, lost her action to have the award increased to £120 million. Mrs Dart, whose lifestyle included flying in the family jet from their London home to Michigan for dental appointments, challenged the settlement made by her husband, Robert.

Mr Dart's family firm, Dart Container Corp, founded in 1937, manufactures polystyrene containers used by fast-food restaurants. The family moved to Britain for financial reasons in 1993 and Mr Dart, 37, shortly afterwards filed for divorce. It was claimed that he knew a settlement in the English courts would be a fraction of what he would have to pay in America, a practice known in legal circles as "forum shopping".

He was granted a decree nisi last July and in April Mr Justice Johnson awarded Mrs Dart £8.85 million in the High Court. Her counsel, the leading divorce QC James Munby, argued that a judge in the couple's home state of Michi-



Robert Dart: moved for financial reasons

gan would have awarded up to £200 million and said settlement scales should be harmonised throughout comparable legal systems.

Yesterday Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, with Lords Justices Gibson and Thorpe, turned down her plea to have the settlement increased. After their 37-page judgment was

handed down, Margaret Bennett, Mrs Dart's solicitor, said: "This will mean a major cut in her lifestyle. She had the benefit of a private jet at her disposal at any time. She lives in a very large house and the settlement left little provision for her to have the help of staff."

The couple, who were high-school sweethearts, were married in 1980 in Lansing, Michigan, and Mrs Dart has returned to their 30-acre estate there with the children, William, 13, and Ariana, 10.

The case, which has been to court 23 times, remains unfinished. After leave to appeal to the House of Lords was turned down, Mrs Dart's lawyers said yesterday that they might apply directly to the Law Lords. Meanwhile action will continue in the American courts. Mr and Mrs Dart were both said to be abroad yesterday and unwilling to comment.

The Appeal Court in effect left intact the so-called "millionaire's defence" in big-money settlements which has made the English divorce courts attractive to wealthy husbands. Under that defence, the courts award wives not a proportion of their husband's wealth, but an amount they consider sufficient to keep them in the style to which they have become accustomed.

Lady Justice Butler-Sloss



Karina Dart: claimed that the divorce settlement had left little provision for her to have the help of staff

did hint that the time may be close for British courts to make higher awards in cases involving the seriously rich.

Mr Justice Johnson had ruled that Mrs Dart was entitled to a lump sum award of £8.85 million and that Mr Dart should also pay £2,500 a month maintenance for each child. The lump sum was conditional on Mrs Dart

transferring her interest in a house in Kensington, London, to her husband and relinquishing her interest in two Porsches, a Ferrari, another car and a painting, and transferring 1,624 shares in the Dart Container Corp to him.

The court was told that the original £8.85 million award was designed to meet Mrs Dart's needs for the occasional

plane charter, a small second house and her wardrobe. During the case, however, it became clear that the continuance of her lifestyle might require a bigger sum.

She has maintained a team of bodyguards at her American home, where an enormous swimming pool is the envy of neighbours. Her favourite cars, among a fleet of others,

are said to include a Jaguar XJ6 and a limited-edition Jeep Cherokee.

Mrs Dart maintains she agreed to move to London with her husband three years ago only after his father, co-founder of the family business, promised to set up offshore trusts in which she and her husband would each receive £300 million.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mother, 19, killed on tractor ride

A 19-year-old mother was crushed to death when she fell under a six-tonne tractor that had been stolen from a compound near Wigan. Christine Gould was riding down a dirt track on the giant digger with her mother and a teenage friend when she slipped and was dragged under the metal tracks, police believe. The two others jumped to safety before the tractor careered into a lake.

First gas station

Britain's first purpose-built gas filling station has been opened by Earl Ferrers, the Environment Minister. It will provide fuel for Clio buses in Southampton, a fleet of 16 buses powered by compressed natural gas.

Farming deaths

The number of farm workers killed in agricultural accidents rose to 21 in 1995-96, compared with 14 in the previous 12 months, according to the Health and Safety Executive. Total farm deaths remained steady at 48.

Wing and prayer

The Rev Anthony Kelton, a pentecostal minister from Co Durham who admits to being terrified of heights, has agreed to marry a couple from Gloucestershire next month while wing-walking on a bi-plane.

Harriers die

Four young Montagu's harriers reared in a nest that had been guarded to foil egg collectors have been killed by foxes. They died three days after a 24-hour watch on the nest in the New Forest, Hampshire, was called off.

Flower power

Bovis has agreed to dig up a wild flower meadow at Wilmetote, Warwickshire, and re-lay it quarter of a mile away before building 49 homes on the site. The company will also maintain the meadow for three years.

Crime did not pay for armed robber who stole to save his marriage

A MAN who turned to armed robbery in a fruitless attempt to save his marriage was jailed for 11 years yesterday. Carl Morris's wife, Mandy, divorced him and tipped off police after she had helped to spend most of his share of the proceeds from the £286,000 security van raid, the Old Bailey was told.

The money was spent on holiday

homes, cars and champagne parties. William Clegg, QC, for Morris, said: "He decided to commit the crime because he had marriage problems. He was taking home only £200 a week as a manual labourer and his wife found it difficult to budget. They had got into deep financial trouble."

"When he got the money he spent

it on his wife and their young son, trying to patch up a failing marriage. But the marriage failed anyway and it is fair to say that his wife finally left him only after she had managed to spend a good deal of the proceeds."

"Carl hoped to set himself and his wife up in business for the rest of their lives but that did not happen,

and now he has lost everything." Morris's brother Adam, 32, who worked as a Securix guard and provided inside knowledge for the robbery, was jailed for 13 years.

Ian Darling, for the prosecution, said that Carl Morris ambushed the van in December 1994 as his brother and his unsuspecting colleague, Rick Potter, 30, were collect-

ing from a supermarket in Poplar, east London.

Carl Morris burst into the van wearing a balaclava and brandishing a fake pistol. Mr Potter was bound, gagged and blindfolded so that he was unable to see his colleague helping the robber to drill into the van's safe. Before escaping, Carl Morris tied up his brother.

After her marriage ended bitterly last year Mrs Morris, 28, went to the police. "She told the police her husband had turned up with a sack of money which he hid in the loft," Mr Darling said.

Carl, of Romford, east London, and Adam, of Dagenham, admitted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm with intent.

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Warmer summers and more tourists are forecast — but so too are storms, floods and mosquitoes

Global warming will bring Paris weather to the South

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

THE South of England will enjoy the weather of the Paris Basin as global warming pushes the climate of Europe northwards, scientists said yesterday.

But the benefits of average summer temperatures 1.6C hotter by 2050 will be overwhelmed by a sharp rise in gales, storms and the loss of wildlife. The ski industry in Scotland will collapse and up to 400,000 hectares of land in the Fens will be at risk from flooding as sea levels rise.

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, said: "While it may seem attractive for the South of England to inherit the climate presently enjoyed by the residents of the Paris Basin and the Loire, this shift also has disadvantages. Such changes could have far-reaching effects on our society, environment and global economy."

The findings come in the



Professor Martin Parry, one of the researchers, predicts that many species will be unable to adapt

first detailed study of how global warming will affect Britain. The scientists believe the landscape and lifestyle of the country will be changed forever by 2030 to 2050 with climate zones pushed northwards by more than 125 miles.

The tourist industry and wine makers will benefit and continental butterflies will be

come commonplace. But Professor Martin Parry of University College London, one of the scientists behind the report, said he believed that overall there would be more negative impacts.

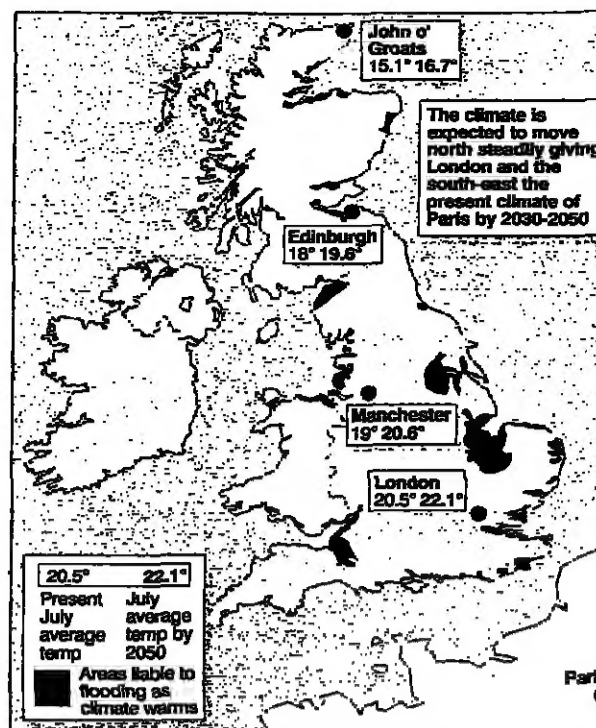
The report, which will be used by the Government to plan water resources and sea walls, concludes that the

record-breaking summer temperatures of 1976 and 1995 will, by 2050, be happening every three years.

Patterns of rainfall will change with the South becoming arid and the North becoming far wetter. The scientists, drawn from universities and institutes across Britain, believe diseases, especially those such as malaria that are carried by insects, will increase.

Some species of plant, such as damp-loving ferns and mosses are likely to disappear unless they are relocated northwards. But even these measures might not be enough to save some mountain plants and animals.

Professor Parry, chairman of the Climate Change Impacts Review Group, said species likely to be lost included the mountain hare and the Arctic char fish of the Lake District. Ice Age relics and Alpine species that survive in mountain ranges such as the Cairngorms will be the worst hit. These include the snowy



owl, ptarmigan and snow bunting. The scientists believe some vulnerable species will have to be moved northwards along wildlife "corridors". The heathland in areas such as Dorset that is home to the sand lizard will become more prone to fires.

Coastal dune systems may

be invaded more rapidly by alien species such as the Hottentot fig and imported pond weeds, such as American duckweed, are expected to overrun rivers and streams. Insurance claims are likely to rise as storms and floods cause structural damage.

The report comes in the run-

FORECAST 2030

There will be positive and negative impacts on the British Isles from climate change by 2030 to 2050, scientists said.

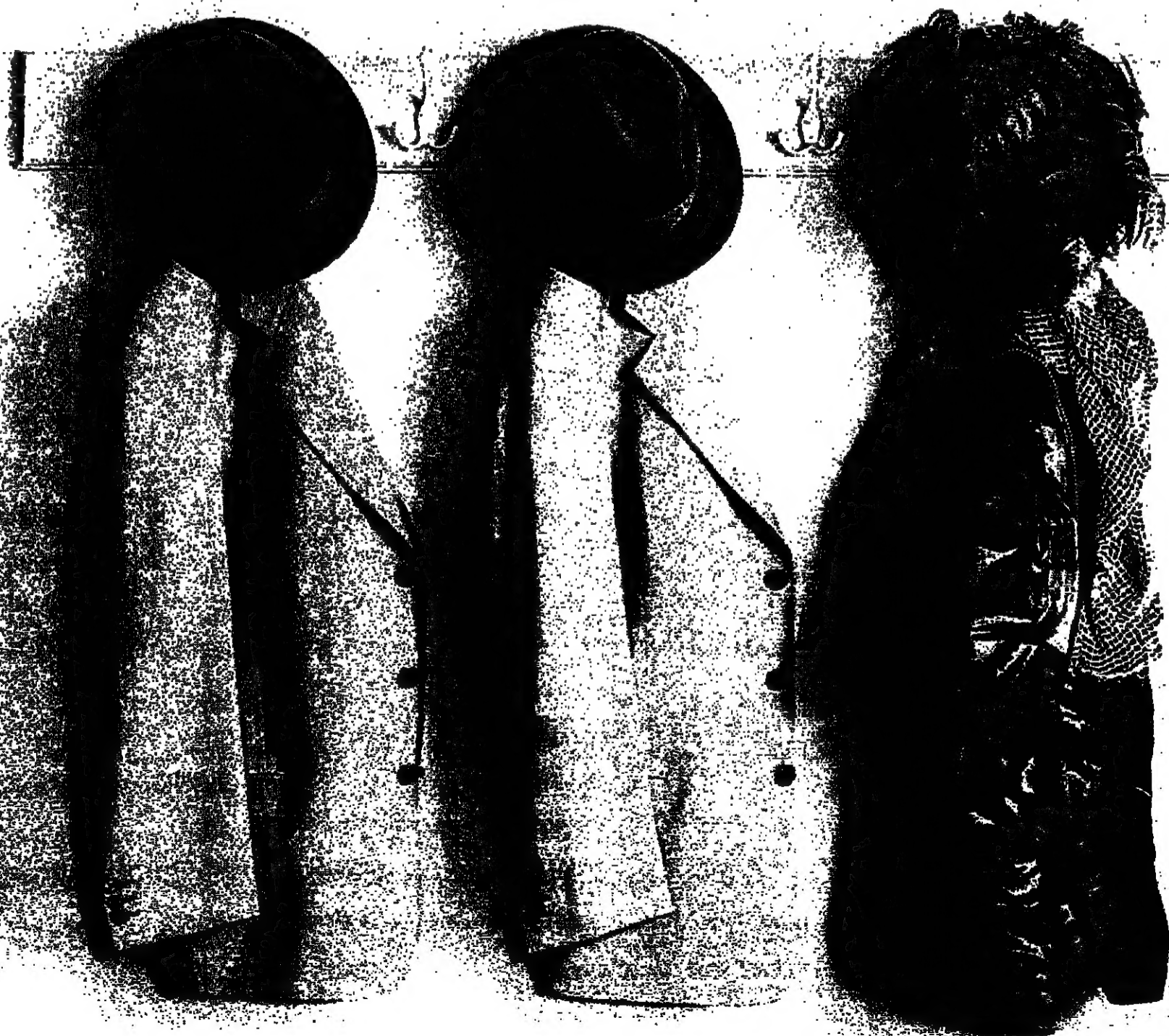
Weather and water supplies: Temperatures will rise by about 0.2C a decade, reaching an average 1.6C hotter than now. There will be more rain but it will be mainly in the North with the North West wetter by 7 per cent. In the South, summer rainfall will fall 8 per cent. Demand for irrigation water in the South will soar 63 per cent, putting further pressure on supplies. More windy days are forecast and the frequency of gales across the whole country is expected to climb by a third.

Sea Levels: A hotter world will raise sea levels as the oceans expand. Sea levels could rise 37cm but the impact will be severest in the South and East, where the land is sinking, so the actual rise could be as high as 50cm. Low-lying areas will be at increased risk of flooding and vulnerable to more storms. About 400,000 ha might be at risk in the Fens alone.

Agriculture and Forestry: Timber production, mainly centred on introduced conifer species, is likely to increase 15 per cent by 2050. Some sensitive species, such as limes and beeches, could die out. Urban trees, such as limes and planes, in the South will suffer from more pests and drought. Wetter, warmer weather in the North should favour dairy herds. Sunflowers and maize could replace wheat and other crops in the South. Trout farming in the South is likely to be hit by rising temperatures and low-flow rivers.

Weather, page 26

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Nine out of ten women accuse press of bias

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY 90 per cent of women believe that newspapers are biased against their sex and more than half are offended by the way they are treated by the press, according to a study published yesterday.

Three quarters of the 500 women questioned by researchers for the pressure group Women in Journalism also said that they could not think of a single newspaper that was on their side at all.

Tabloid papers came out worse, with 77 per cent of respondents claiming they were the most biased. An analysis of similar stories about men and women showed a significant degree of sexism against women. When the MPs Alan Howarth and Emma Nicholson defected from the Tory party last year, Mr Howarth was seen as a moral crusader while Ms Nicholson was derided as a "vain and silly" woman.

Even in papers that criticised both of them, Ms Nicholson fared worse. She was described as "menopausal", "pseudo-feminist" and "not a serious politician", while Mr Howarth was merely "disillusioned", "batty" or "bizarre and eccentric". Speaking yesterday at the launch of the

study, Ms Nicholson said: "My treatment at the hands of the press... was startling. Reaction in many quarters was blatantly sexist."

Press coverage of the deaths of the mountaineers Alison Hargreaves and Geoff Tier prompted many stories about whether a mother should be climbing mountains but nothing on whether a father should do the same thing. Ms Hargreaves' death received 800 paragraphs of coverage, compared to just 20 for Mr Tiers. "It is clear," the study concluded, "that parenthood and dangerous sports are only an issue if you are female."

The launch of the study was attended by a number of public figures who said they had been subjected to similar bias. Clare Spottiswoode, Director-General of Gas Supply, said: "At various times... I have been likened in the press to Boadicea and Annie Oakley, and been called 'mumsy', 'the laughing regulator' and described as resembling Ingrid Bergman on a bad hair day. I have even had my character and competence assessed in an article based solely on the floral print of my dress."

Media, pages 24, 25

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Weather pre.

Independent schools say universities are biased against them

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

BIAS against applicants from independent schools adds to the "lottery" of gaining a university place, according to their head teachers.

One in ten sixth-formers feels let down by the system and one in five schools has experienced prejudice against students because of their race, sex or religion, or because they come from a fee-paying school. A report for the Independent Schools Information Service also said yesterday that good candidates were often rejected without interviews, most commonly for English and medicine studies.

The schools called for an overhaul of the system so that university entry was based on candidates' actual A-level results rather than predictions made up to a year before the start of courses.

Janet Lawley, head of Bury Grammar School for Girls and a co-author of the report, said: "There are small numbers of examples of apparent

prejudice where students have been questioned about their privileged background or where comments have been made that have suggested they have been less favourably looked at. For those students involved, it can make all the difference between obtaining the place they want in the right institution."

The report was based on evidence from 21,000 students at 268 independent schools. The majority were satisfied with the system but there were 42 claims of racial prejudice levelled at admissions tutors, including jokes made about Asian surnames.

One candidate had to wait five hours for an interview, a woman applicant complained that her male interviewer was "over-familiar", an applicant for a modern Greek course was interviewed in French.

Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges' Admissions Service, said an investigation of allegations from rejected medicine candidates last year showed valid reasons for the universities' decisions. "I suspect allegations of discrimination might often be borne of disappointment rather than fact."

He said UCAS supported the principle of admissions based on actual results.

Vice chancellors are preparing to consult schools and universities on plans for a dual system of applications split between predicted grades and actual results.

Margaret Rudland, president of the Girls' Schools Association, said: "For one in ten students, university admissions is near enough a lottery. We would very much like to see a post-qualifications system because it would be fairer on students and a lot easier on the institutions as they would not have to cope with so many applications."

Postgraduate vacancies, page 44



Richard Lower, whose quail egg business has an annual turnover of £7,500

14-year-old tycoon cracks the market for quails' eggs

By ROBIN YOUNG

A BOY aged 14 who bought some quails for a hobby after reading a book on poultry is fast becoming one of the country's top producers of quails' eggs.

The business began just over a year ago by Richard Lower provides 40,000 eggs a year to hotels, restaurants and shops in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

He has attracted the attention of Delta Smith and the Royal Household has told him he is to be on stand-by the next time quails' eggs are needed for a Buckingham Palace menu.

Richard, from Whepstead, near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, trades as Folly House Poultry and already has a turnover of £7,500 a year.

His birds are in a barn once occupied by the pony he outgrew and have the run of a yard outside during the day. Richard says he intends to expand quickly and he is already thinking of taking on staff. He spends two hours each weekday feeding the birds and collecting eggs, with weekends for making deliveries.

His mother, Linda, who runs a bed and breakfast business, and father, Tim, who is in the motor trade, help with deliveries. Mrs Lower said yesterday: "Richard is totally devoted to his quails and does not really have any other hobbies. He is not like other boys of his age who will play football."

Richard says his youth has sometimes proved a handicap. "One man asked for the managing director. When I told him it was me he became very agitated. He wanted to go into partnership but I was not very interested." Some people assume he is merely a delivery boy.

He added: "The bank has been very good to me. They have bent all the rules so I can have a business account, because you are supposed to be 18. I would like to be market leader in a few years and expand into other markets such as game."

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1 accuse
of bias

Ministers urged to fight child smoking

By NIGEL HAWKES

THE Government was yesterday urged to spend the £108 million tax collected each year from cigarettes sold illegally to children to launch an anti-smoking programme.

More than 60 medical, health, consumer and children's organisations, including the cancer charities and six royal colleges of medicine, have banded together to appeal for action to stop the rise in smoking by under 16s.

A quarter of 15-year-olds are regular smokers. If the trend persists, smoking will kill about a million of today's teenagers - and children in middle age, the group said in a report called Cashing in on Children Smoking.

Dr John Britton, of the Royal College of Physicians, said: "One quarter will die in middle age, losing an average of 20 to 25 years of their lives. The other quarter will die in old age, losing an average of five to ten years of their lives."

The campaign recommends spending the £108 million on initiatives to include a ban on tobacco advertising, research into prevention of teenage smoking and a ban on smoking in all educational establishments.

Crisps lose their bite as snack for young

By ROBIN YOUNG

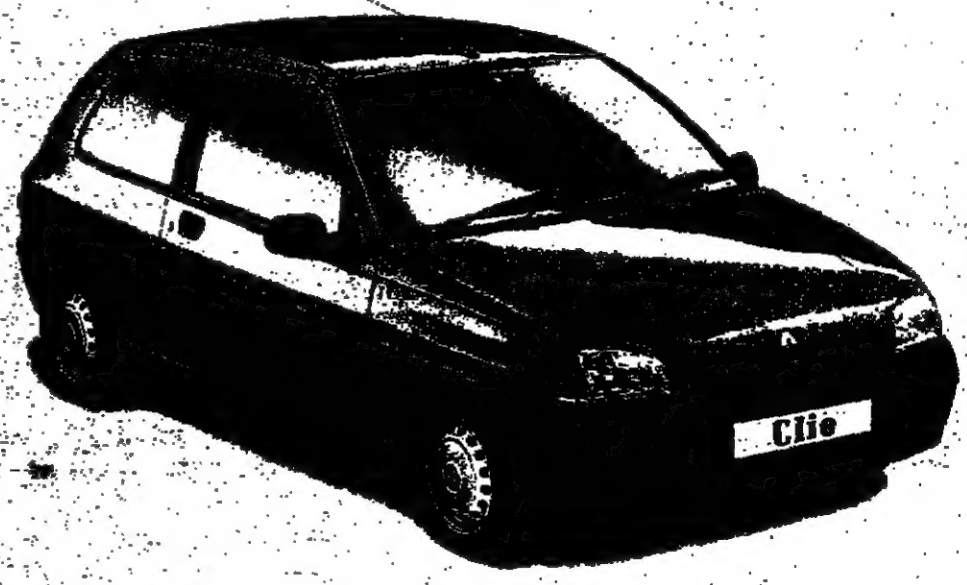
IT IS crunch time for potato crisps. For the first time they account for less than half the sales of packet snacks in the United Kingdom, a market worth £1.85 billion a year.

Market analyst Datamonitor says children now want to fill their lunchboxes with more exotic snacks, including tortilla chips. One of the latest snacks launched is packets of fresh mini-carrots, imported from America.

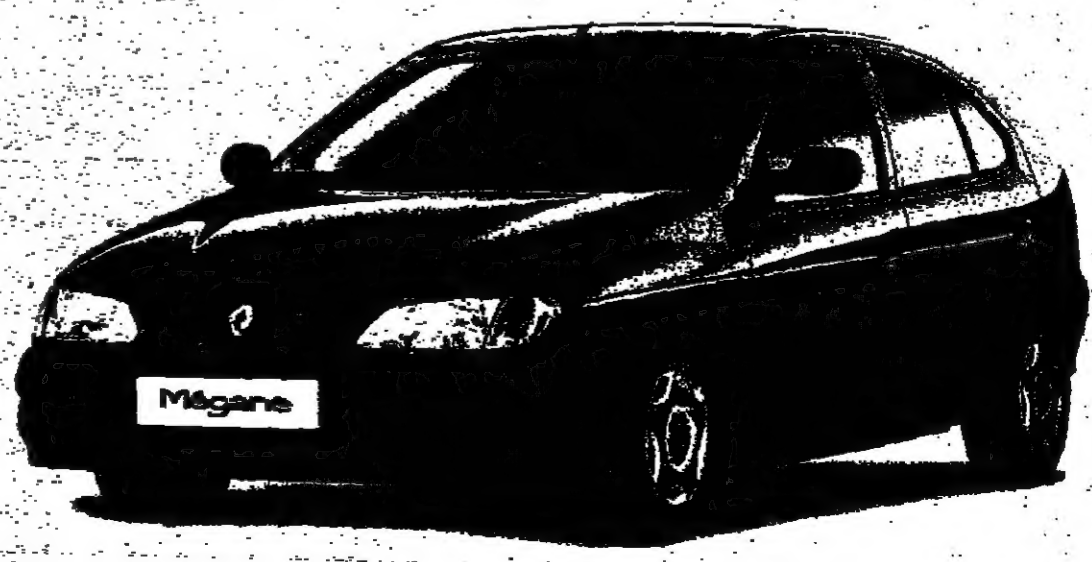
Datamonitor says crisps make up 48.7 per cent of the market, their lowest share yet. Five years ago they had 52.2 per cent of the market. Three in four children under 10 have a packet snack in their lunchbox, Datamonitor found. Sales of savoury snacks are now worth £647 million a year, up from £495 million in 1991.

Potato crisps were invented by an American Indian chef called George Crum. When the rail magnate Cornelius Vanderbilt said his potato chips were too thick, Crum sliced the next batch as finely as he could to teach his employer a lesson. Vanderbilt loved them, and the recipe was adopted internationally.

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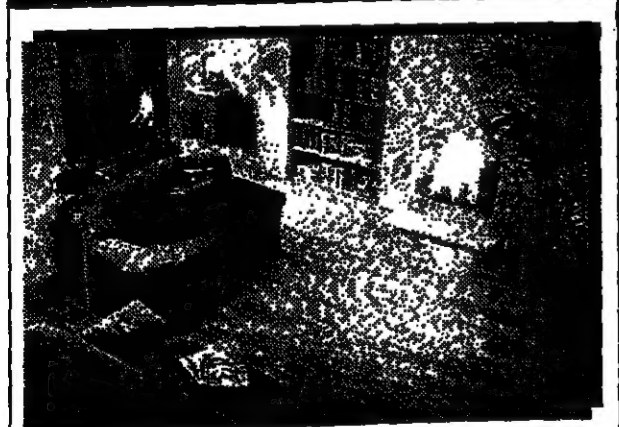


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WOODSTOCK MAKE HARDWOOD FLOORS AFFORDABLE

Clinical care next standard to go under the microscope

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

DEATH rates for NHS trusts in England are likely to be published, possibly as early as next year, to help patients and their GPs choose those hospitals with the highest clinical standards, Stephen Dorrell, the health secretary, said yesterday.

New measures of the quality of clinical care, including death rates, re-operation rates and infection rates, are being considered for inclusion in the annual league table of hospital performance, published yesterday. Pilot studies of 12 clinical indicators which have been agreed by doctors' leaders are to be completed by the end of the year.

Launching this year's tables, the third year in which they have been published, Mr Dorrell said they provided a valuable measure of the service provided in terms of its convenience for patients but did not address standards of clinical care. The tables, cover-

ing more than 500 NHS trusts, reveal wide variations across a range of indicators, including waiting times, cancelled operations and day surgery.

They were criticised by Labour and the Liberal Democrats and medical organisations. Harriet Harman, Shadow Health Secretary, said they emphasised quality at the expense of health. Simon Hughes dismissed the tables as "superficial, one-dimensional and misguided".

Mr Dorrell said ministers were under pressure to provide better information in terms of the success rates of treatment. He said he could not pre-judge the outcome of the pilot studies but was committed to introducing measures of clinical performance.

The tables show that NHS trusts have improved their

performance overall with the number of five-star ratings up 23 per cent on last year. In total, 47 per cent of all star-rated performances were awarded five stars, compared with 29 per cent in the first set of tables, two years ago.

Nationally, the tables show a rise in operations cancelled and not rescheduled within one month - from seven to eight for each NHS trust - reflecting increasing pressure on the service caused by the rise in emergency admissions.

One of the worst regions in this respect - West Midlands, where three hospitals record over 100 patients each affected in this way - is also the one where the drive to reduce waiting lists has been strongest. Waiting times for in-patient admissions range from 11 per cent of patients admitted within three months to 100 per cent and for out-patient appointments from 19 per cent seen in 13 weeks to 100

per cent. For the first time this year immunisation and cervical smear rates are included in the tables. On measles, mumps and rubella vaccinations, rates vary from 77.2 per cent of children to 96.3 per cent in different areas. On cervical screening the rates range from 64 per cent to 98 per cent.

As in past years, local district general hospitals have outperformed the best-known teaching hospitals. Alan Langlands, chief executive of the NHS, said the teaching hospitals were a special case. "They are usually working at the cutting edge in developing new services, they have a more complex case mix and they draw patients from a wider area," he said.

Mr Dorrell said the pilot studies of clinical indicators were proceeding with the agreement of the Joint Consultants Committee representing the royal medical colleges and the British Medical Association.



Life and death: Stephen Dorrell revealed plans at yesterday's launch of hospital league tables to publish mortality rates

Discussions began last year after the committee criticised the league tables as irrelevant. Hospital death rates are already published in Scotland but the committee dismissed these as unhelpful.

Mr Norman Browne, chairman of the committee and former president of the Royal College of Surgeons, said yesterday that doctors would support the clinical indicators if they could be shown to work. But there was scepticism about the cost of collect-

ing the information from all hospitals when spot checks on a few might achieve the same.

The Royal College of Nursing said the tables were still "side-stepping" quality of patient care. "The league tables still do nothing to provide

the general public with information about the quality of care they can expect," said Christine Hancock, RCN general secretary. "People about to go into hospital need to know how well they can be expected to recover."

How they are rated

Hospitals and National Health Service trusts are listed alphabetically by region, showing their percentage score and star rating for 1995-96. Stars are given for performance from one to five: the better the performance, the more stars. Where no stars are given, the Audit Commission's auditors were not satisfied with the systems for collecting the information. The tables here show three of the seven main indicators.

| Operations cancelled: number of patients not admitted within a month of cancellation of operation | Out-patient waiting times: percentage of patients seen within 13 weeks | In-patient waiting times: percentage of patients admitted within 3 weeks |
|---|--|--|
|---|--|--|

WEST MIDLANDS

| England averages | 8 | 83 | 71 |
|-------------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Alexandra H'care | 3*** | 91*** | 63*** |
| Birmingham Children's Hosp | 0**** | 77** | 74*** |
| Birmingham Heartlands Hosp | 0**** | 76** | 74*** |
| Birmingham Women's H'care | 1**** | 100**** | 74*** |
| Black Country Mental H'th | 0**** | 100**** | 74*** |
| Burton Hosp | 0**** | 88*** | 65*** |
| City Hosp | 106* | 80*** | 71*** |
| Cowderly H'care | 0**** | 100**** | 74*** |
| Dudley Grp of Hosp | 14* | 76** | 66*** |
| Dudley Priority H'th | 0**** | 91*** | 66*** |
| First Comm H'th | 0**** | 86*** | 66*** |
| Foundation | 0**** | 89*** | 66*** |
| George Eliot Hosp | 0**** | 89*** | 66*** |
| Good Hope Hosp | 168* | 81** | 70*** |
| Harford Hosp | 0**** | 88*** | 66*** |
| Hertfordshire Comm H'th | 0**** | 88*** | 66*** |
| Kidderminster H'care | 7** | 86*** | 66*** |
| Mid-Staffordshire Gen Hosp | 3*** | 77** | 64*** |
| North East Worcestershire Comm | 0**** | 82*** | 66*** |
| North Staffordshire Combined H'care | 0**** | 82*** | 66*** |
| North Staffordshire Hosp | 1**** | 72** | 64*** |
| North Warwickshire | 0**** | 100**** | 74*** |
| Northern Birmingham Comm H'th | 0**** | 87*** | 66*** |
| Northern Birmingham Mental H'th | 0**** | 94*** | 64*** |
| Princess Royal Hosp | 0**** | 74** | 74*** |
| Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Hosp | 0**** | 83** | 50*** |
| Royal Orthopaedic Hosp | 0**** | 89** | 66*** |
| Royal Shrewsbury Hosp | 0**** | 70** | 66*** |
| Royal Wolverhampton Hosp | 1**** | 75** | 67*** |
| Rugby | 0**** | 91*** | 66*** |
| Sandwell H'care | 107* | 83** | 72*** |
| Shropshire's Comm H'th Svc | 2** | 89*** | 66*** |
| Shropshire's Mental H'th | 0**** | 89*** | 66*** |
| Solihull H'care | 0**** | 85*** | 66*** |
| Solihull Hosp | 0**** | 84*** | 66*** |
| South Birmingham Mental H'th | 0**** | 72** | 71*** |
| South Warwickshire Gen Hosp | 0**** | 88*** | 66*** |
| South Warwickshire Mental H'th Svc | 0**** | 98*** | 66*** |
| South Warwickshire Comm | 3*** | 80*** | 66*** |
| Southern Birmingham Comm H'th | 0**** | 88*** | 66*** |
| U Hosp Birmingham | 27* | 88*** | 77*** |
| Walsall Comm H'th | 0**** | 87*** | 66*** |
| Walsall Hosp | 9** | 79** | 72*** |
| Walsley H'care | 1**** | 95*** | 70*** |
| Worcester Royal Infirmary | 1**** | 95*** | 70*** |

TRENT

| England averages | 8 | 83 | 71 |
|---|-------|---------|---------|
| Barnsley Comm & Priority Svc | 0**** | 96*** | 66*** |
| Barnsley District Gen Hosp | 0**** | 80*** | 76*** |
| Bassetlaw & Corby Svc | 0**** | 94*** | 66*** |
| Central Nottingham H'care | 0**** | 80*** | 80*** |
| Central Sheffield U Hosp | 0**** | 82*** | 76*** |
| Chesterfield & N Derbyshire Royal Hosp | 0**** | 94*** | 66*** |
| Comm H'th Care Svc (N Derby) | 0**** | 84*** | 66*** |
| Comm H'th Svc - South Derby | 0**** | 79** | 70*** |
| Comm H'th Sheffield | 0**** | 80*** | 76*** |
| Derby City Gen Hosp | 0**** | 99*** | 66*** |
| Derbyshire Royal Infirmary | 0**** | 92*** | 66*** |
| Doncaster H'care | 0**** | 82*** | 66*** |
| Doncaster Royal Infirmary & Mortuary Hosp | 5** | 84*** | 76*** |
| Edgbaston Hosp | 3** | 89*** | 66*** |
| Glentworth Hosp | 0**** | 82*** | 72*** |
| Grantham & District Hosp | 0**** | 92*** | 66*** |
| King's Mill & H'care Svc | 0**** | 87** | 66*** |
| Leicester Gen Hosp | 0**** | 75** | 66*** |
| Leicester Royal Infirmary | 2** | 79** | 66*** |
| Leicestershire Mental H'th Svc | 0**** | 89*** | 66*** |
| Lincoln District H'care | 0**** | 88*** | 100**** |
| Lincoln Hosp | 0**** | 88*** | 66*** |
| Louth & District H'care | 0**** | 83*** | 66*** |
| Mulberry | 3** | 82*** | 70*** |
| Northern Gen Hosp | 0**** | 90*** | 76*** |
| Nottingham City Hosp | 0**** | 90*** | 76*** |
| Nottingham Comm H'th | 0**** | 84*** | 66*** |
| Nottingham Hosp | 0**** | 84*** | 66*** |
| Pilgrim H'th | 13* | 82*** | 64*** |
| Queen's Medical Ctr Nottingham U Hosp | 0**** | 79** | 76*** |
| Rotherham Gen Hosp | 5** | 89*** | 66*** |
| Rotherham Priority H'th | 0**** | 84*** | 66*** |
| Sheffield Children's Hosp | 0**** | 74** | 76*** |
| South Lincs Comm & Mental H'th Svc | 0**** | 94*** | 66*** |
| Southern Derbyshire Mental H'th | 0**** | 88*** | 66*** |
| West Lindsey | 0**** | 79** | 72*** |
| Weston Park Hosp | 0**** | 100**** | 100**** |

SOUTH THAMES

| England averages | 8 | 83 | 71 |
|---------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Asford Hosp | 32* | 89*** | 48* |
| Bethlem & Maudsley | 0**** | 99*** | 66*** |
| Bournemouth Comm & Mental H'th | 25* | 73** | 73*** |
| Bromley Hosp | 0**** | 76** | 64*** |
| Canterbury & Thanet Comm H'care | 0**** | 87*** | 66*** |
| Chichester Priority Care Svc | 0**** | 87*** | 66*** |
| Crawley & Horsham | 9** | 87*** | 49* |
| Croydon Comm H'th | 11* | 78** | 46* |
| East Surrey H'care | 25* | 88*** | 66*** |
| East Surrey Priority Care | 0**** | 100**** | 66*** |
| Eastbourne & County H'care | 0**** | 84*** | 73*** |
| Eastbourne Hosp | 0**** | 79** | 66*** |
| Epsom H'care | 55* | 98*** | 66*** |
| Frimley Park Hosp | 18* | 87*** | 79*** |
| Greenwich H'care | 0**** | 80*** | 73*** |
| Guy's & St Thomas' Hosp | 16* | 80*** | 73*** |
| Hastings & Rother | 6** | 95*** | 66*** |
| Heathlands Mental H'th | 0**** | 82*** | 70*** |
| Kent & Canterbury Hosp | 10* | 82*** | 70*** |

SOUTH AND WEST

| England averages | 8 | 83 | 71 |
|---------------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Andover District Comm H'care | 0**** | 92*** | 80*** |
| Bath & West Comm | 0**** | 86*** | 66*** |
| Bath Mental H'care | 0**** | 89*** | 66*** |
| Corwall & Ls Learning Disabilities | 0**** | 92*** | 66*** |
| Corwall H'care | 0**** | 88*** | 66*** |
| Dorset Comm | 0**** | 100**** | 66*** |
| Dorset H'th Care | 0**** | 100**** | 66*** |
| East Gloucestershire | 0**** | 84*** | 80*** |
| East Somerset | 0**** | 85*** | 66*** |
| East Wiltshire H'th Care | 0**** | 100**** | 66*** |
| Exeter & District Comm H'th Svc | 0**** | 75** | 92*** |
| Frenchay H'care | 14* | 80*** | 72*** |
| Gloucestershire Royal | 1**** | 87*** | 77*** |
| Isle of Wight Comm H'th | 1**** | 81*** | 66*** |
| North Hampshire Hosp | 1**** | 81*** | 66*** |
| North Hampshire Lodon Comm | 0**** | 100**** | 66*** |
| Northern Devon H'care | 0**** | 88*** | 66*** |
| Penicelli | 0**** | 90*** | 66*** |
| Plymouth Comm Svc | 0**** | 90*** | 66*** |
| Plymouth Hosp | 0**** | 97*** | 80*** |
| Poole Hosp | 2** | 88*** | 84*** |
| Portsmouth H'th Care | 0**** | 88*** | 66*** |
| Portsmouth Hosp | 0**** | 91*** | 56*** |
| Royal Bournemouth & Christchurch Hosp | 3** | 95*** | 83*** |
| Royal Cornwall Hosp | 8** | 87*** | 66*** |
| Royal Devon & Exeter H'care | 22* | 81*** | 66*** |
| Royal National Hosp Rheumatism | 0**** | 80*** | 72*** |
| Royal United Hosp Bath | 0**** | 83*** | 66*** |
| St Mary's Hosp (Isle of Wight) | 1**** | 93*** | 66*** |
| Salisbury H'th Care | 30* | 92*** | 66*** |
| Severn | 0**** | 88*** | 66*** |
| South Devon H'care | 27* | 82*** | 76*** |
| Southern Comm H'th Svc | 1**** | 82*** | 76*** |
| Southern U Hosp | 2** | 86*** | 70*** |
| Southwest H'th Svc | 12* | 82*** | 63*** |
| Swindon & Marlborough | 71* | 79** | 66*** |
| Taunton & Somerset | 0**** | 94*** | 66*** |
| United Bristol H'care | 59* | 75** | 76*** |
| West Dorset Gen Hosp | 18* | 91*** | 76*** |
| Wiltshire H'th Care | 0**** | 79*** | 66*** |
| Winchester & Eastleigh H'care | 1**** | 81*** | 66*** |

NORTHERN AND YORKSHIRE

| England averages | 8 | 83 | 71 |
|---------------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Airedale | 1**** | 87*** | 66*** |
| Bishop Auckland Hosp | 0**** | 94*** | 79*** |
| Bradford Comm H'th | 0**** | 82*** | 66*** |
| Bradford Hosp | 0**** | 85*** | 66*** |
| Calderdale H'care | 0**** | 83*** | 72*** |
| Carlisle Hosp | 0**** | 90*** | 75*** |
| Chewell & Wardwick | 0**** | 81*** | 66*** |
| City Hosp Sunderland | 0**** | 83** | 71*** |
| Comm H'th Care: North Durham | 0**** | 80*** | 66*** |
| Darlington Memorial Hosp | 0**** | 85*** | 66*** |
| Deeside H'care | 8** | 82*** | 66*** |
| East Yorkshire Comm H'care | 0**** | 82*** | 66*** |
| East Yorkshire Hosp | 0**** | 80*** | 71*** |
| Freemantle Grp of Hosp | 0**** | 81*** | 74*** |
| Gateshead H'care | 0**** | 89*** | 66*** |
| Gateshead Hosp | 1**** | 90*** | 62*** |
| Grimsby H'th | 0**** | 84*** | 71*** |
| Hartlepool H'care | 0**** | 85*** | 70*** |
| Hartlepool Comm H'care | 0**** | 100**** | 77*** |
| Huddersfield | 0**** | 87*** | 66*** |
| Hull & Holderness Comm H'th | 0**** | 91*** | 66*** |
| Leeds Comm & Mental H'th Svc | 0**** | 100**** | 66*** |
| Leeds City H'th | 0**** | 78** | 76*** |
| North Durham Acute Hosp | 0**** | 100**** | 66*** |
| North Lakeland H'care | 0**** | 89*** | 66*** |
| North Tees H'th | 0**** | 85*** | 66*** |
| North Tyneside H'th Care | 0**** | 81*** | 82*** |
| Northallerton H'th Svc | 0**** | 80*** | 66*** |
| Northgate & Prudhoe | 0**** | 80*** | 66*** |
| Northumberland Comm H'th | 0**** | 84*** | 66*** |
| Northumberland Mental H'th | 1**** | 81*** | 64*** |
| Prestonfield Hosp | 2** | 96*** | 71*** |
| Priority H'care Wearside | 0**** | 81*** | 66*** |
| Royal Hull Hosp | 5** | 78** | 67*** |
| Royal Victoria Infirmary & Assoc Hosp | 14* | 79** | 83*** |
| St James's & Seacroft U Hosp | 7** | 85*** | 73*** |
| Scarborough & North East Yorks H'care | 6** | 86*** | 76*** |
| Scunthorpe & Goole Hosp | 0**** | 81*** | 66*** |
| Southdown Comm H'care | 3** | 94*** | 66*** |
| South Durham H'care | 1**** | 87*** | 71*** |
| South Tees Acute Hosp | 1**** | 100**** | 66*** |
| South Tees Comm & Mental H'th | 2** | 75** | 81*** |
| South Tyneside H'care | 2** | 75** | 81*** |
| South West Durham Mental H'th | 7** | 100**** | 74*** |
| United Leeds Teaching Hosp | 0**** | 88*** | 66*** |
| Wakefield & Pontefract Comm H'th | 0**** | 87*** | 66*** |
| West Cumbria H'care | 3** | 78** | 77*** |
| York H'th Svc | 0**** | 81*** | 66*** |

NORTH WEST

| England averages | 8 | 83 | 71 |
|------------------|-----|-------|-------|
| Altrincham Hosp | 5** | 85*** | 74*** |

NORTH THAMES

| England averages | 8 | 83 | 71 |
|---|-------|---------|---------|
| Barnet H'care | 0**** | 82*** | 66*** |
| Barnet & Thurrock Gen Hosp | 4*** | 83*** | 71*** |
| BHB Comm H'th Care | 0**** | 82*** | 66*** |
| Barnet & Islington Comm H'th Svc | 0**** | 83*** | 66*** |
| Central Middlesex Hosp | 7** | 89*** | 67*** |
| Chase Farm Hosp | 33* | 79** | 71*** |
| Chelsea & Westminster H'care | 0**** | 92*** | 66*** |
| Chesham & Watlington Comm H'th | 13* | 85*** | 66*** |
| Ealing Hosp | 2** | 88*** | 66*** |
| East Hertfordshire | 0**** | 88*** | 66*** |
| Eastman Dental Hosp | 0**** | 88*** | 66*** |
| Eastman & Islington Comm H'th | 0**** | 88*** | 66*** |
| Essex & Herts Comm | 0**** | 84*** | 66*** |
| Essex Rivers H'care | 0**** | 83*** | 66*** |
| Forest H'care | 8** | 83*** | 48* |
| Great Ormond Street Hosp | 65* | 90*** | 79*** |
| Hammersmith Hosp | 0**** | 89*** | 66*** |
| Harefield Hosp | 0**** | 89*** | 66*** |
| Haringey H'care | 0**** | 89*** | 66*** |
| Harlow & Millingdon H'care | 0**** | 89*** | 66*** |
| Havering Hosp | 6** | 89*** | 73*** |
| Hillingdon Hosp | 1**** | 81*** | 76*** |
| Hornet Hosp | 0**** | 81*** | 76*** |
| Howland & Spelthorne Comm & Mental H'th | 0**** | 100**** | 66*** |
| Mid-Essex Comm & Mental H'th | 0**** | 95*** | 27* |
| Mid-Essex Hosp Svc | 0**** | 79** | 55** |
| Middlesex Eye Hosp | 0**** | 76** | 66*** |
| Mount Vernon & Watford Hosp | 0**** | 85*** | 62*** |
| National Hosp Neurology & Neurosurgery | 0**** | 85*** | 66*** |
| Newcastle Hosp | 0**** | 85*** | 66*** |
| Newham Comm H'th Svc | 0**** | 72** | 100**** |
| Newham H'care | 0**** | 89*** | 66*** |
| North Essex Mental H'th | 0**** | 89*** | 66*** |
| North Hertfordshire | 12* | 86*** | 73*** |
| North Middlesex Hosp | 11* | 81*** | 65*** |
| North West London Mental H'th | 0**** | 100**** | 66*** |
| North West London H'th Svc | 0**** | 86*** | 66*** |
| Parkside H'th | 2** | 77** | 59** |
| Princess Alexandra Hosp | 0**** | 77** | 66*** |
| Queen Elizabeth Hosp Children | 0**** | 77** | 66*** |
| Redbridge H'care | 0**** | 78** | 66*** |
| Riverside Comm H'care | 0**** | 89*** | 66*** |
| Riverside Mental H'th | 2** | 89*** | 66*** |
| Royal Free Hampstead | 3** | 81*** | 66*** |
| Royal London Homoeopathic Hosp | 0**** | 85*** | 100**** |
| Royal Marsden | 0**** | 89*** | 100**** |
| Royal National Orthopaedic Hosp | 0**** | 89*** | 100**** |

Keep patients happy and the standard of treatment may pass unnoticed

An exercise in damage limitation

Judging by the Ministry of Health league tables, the NHS administration would not have been able to teach the senior partner in my family practice in Norfolk very much about public relations. He was a clever, friendly man of huge charm who prided himself that he had not read a medical textbook or journal since the day he qualified at Bart's in 1925.

However, there are diagnostic limits to the power of kindness and an instinctive recognition that a patient is ill. When these limits had been exceeded — a diagnosis had been missed and a patient had suffered as a result — the old doctor launched a damage-limitation exercise. The smallholding attached to the practice provided the whereabouts. A minor blunder resulted in gifts of eggs for the invalid. If he had made a

major mistake, the patient received cream and eggs. After a real disaster the sufferer, or the surviving family, were given ham, eggs and cream. The doctor was considered a huge success.

The NHS is now working on the same principle as that employed by the old Norfolk doctor. Both reckon that if patients are kept happy, the standard of medical care may pass unnoticed. Doctors and nurses are now rightly encouraged to be courteous, to consider patients' feelings and to understand that other things being equal, there is no greater discourtesy than to keep an anxious patient, already apprehensive about their visit to the hospital, waiting.

A kindly greeting when the patient arrives, and explanations as to why there is a wait, coupled with the provision of comfortable surroundings and



MEDICAL BRIEFING

distracting activities, are a help but not the entire answer. If the time waiting for an appointment is to be kept very short, and busy out-patient schedules are to be kept running to time, sacrifices will occasionally have to be made. Such a sacrifice may be good, attentive medicine.

The problem is that nobody knows how long a consultation will last. All too often what is expected to be a simple check on blood pressure may turn into a major examination if, when the patient is about to leave, they say: "By the way, I have rectal bleeding." If the patient is to be thoroughly

examined, the schedule will be ruined, the administrators will be cross and stars will be lost from the minister's assessment. But the patient may survive.

Nobody will deny that patients should be assessed as soon as possible when they reach hospital after an emergency, but the league table does not tell us who did the assessment, how thorough it was and how soon after receiving it the patient was treated.

The percentage of patients seen in out-patients within 12 or 26 weeks after an appointment was made is interesting but does not tell us who the

patients were or what they were suffering from. Waiting 26 weeks may be a death sentence for somebody with a highly malignant tumor and too long for a man with angina. But it may be of no consequence in a case of varicose veins. For the patient with coronary arterial disease, what really matters is how long after the initial out-patient appointment will be the wait for an angiogram. Very often the wait for significant investigations is just as important as the time that elapses before the initial appointment.

The hospital league tables do not differentiate between the wait to see a renowned surgeon with an international reputation and a sawbones who is notorious throughout the medical fraternity. Not unnaturally, the waiting list of the latter will be short. His

reward will be five stars from the Ministry of Health.

The league tables give us some measure of the quality of the administration but tell us nothing about the medical efficiency of the units being judged. Patients are becoming more sophisticated and want to know to what extent their future may be prejudiced if they go to the wrong centre. But the league tables are not always comparing like with like and make no attempt to assess the problems with which different hospitals have to contend.

The longest wait comes to us all, eventually. Most people would prefer to spend a few more anxious minutes in out-patients for the chance to postpone it a little longer.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD
MIKE SHARP



Pilgrim Trust's rating was a casualty of a virus

Poorly rated trust laid low by a bug

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the worst-performing trusts in the league tables was afflicted by a virus which put 40 staff on sick leave when the assessments were carried out. Pilgrim Health NHS Trust in Boston, Lincolnshire, is taking a philosophical attitude to being stuck with a low rating until next year's figures are published.

A virus known as "winter vomiting" arrived in the town in the New Year, just as the statistics were being collected, said Jim Moss, public relations manager. The 643-bed district general hospital was forced to postpone 320 operations, cancel 13, isolate wards and refuse admissions as nurses, doctors and administrators went home with the bug. Three wards were closed. The most unpleasant symptom of the Norwalk bug is projectile vomiting, which can last for 24 hours. Sufferers need several days to recover. The outbreak lasted for four weeks at the start of 1996. The

THE WORST

figures in the tables refer to the first three months of the year. Mr Moss said he did not expect to lose any contracts because the local doctors knew about the quality of the hospital's care.

The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore, Middlesex, which also received low ratings, called for reform of the assessments, including a league table of bed sores.

"We would welcome the extension of these tables to cover quality measures such as infection rates and pressure sores where we know our rates to be particularly low," said Deborah Wheeler, director of nursing.

Indicators like these more accurately reflect the quality of care the patient receives.

Forest Healthcare in east London, another trust which had a low score, blamed "increased pressure placed on the hospital as a result of the peaks in emergency activity last year."



Driving for better standards: Birmingham Heartlands guarantees all out-patients an appointment within 13 weeks

'Easy as booking a hotel or a flight'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

BIRMINGHAM Heartlands Hospital is one of the most improved in the country, up from nine five-star ratings last year to 41 this year. It expects to do even better in 1997 because of big improvements made in the past 12 months to waiting times.

The inner-city teaching hospital, with 1,300 beds on three sites and a budget of £140 million a year, is one of the largest NHS trusts in the country. It has survived, and prospered from, what Robert Naylor, its chief executive, described as a "traumatic" merger with Solihull hospital, which had run up a deficit of £8 million. The West Midlands region has led the way in driving down

waiting lists under the influence of its former chief executive, Brian Edwards. Since April 1 this year, Birmingham Heartlands has guaranteed that all out-patients will be offered an appointment within 13 weeks and that in-patients will be admitted within six months.

Mr Naylor said: "We were treating thousands of patients who had been waiting a long time whom we had undertaken to treat to meet the guarantee. So these tables [based on figures collected in the first three months of 1996] show us worse than we are now."

Mr Naylor said the hospital was

aiming to move to a new "gold standard" of giving every patient a booked out-patient appointment at the time they saw their GP. "I want to make it as easy as booking a hotel or an airline flight."

One of the top trusts is Hales General Hospital in Cheshire, which has the highest proportion of five-star ratings in England. Sheena Cusimsky, the chief executive, explained how the league tables had helped to improve performance. "We didn't have a very good performance in accident and emergency," she said, "so we put in a triage room where a trained nurse assesses patients when they arrive and makes sure they are seen on clinical priority, rather than wait in turn." A&E now gets five stars.

REGION BY REGION

WEST MIDLANDS
Birmingham Heartlands NHS Trust, a major inner city teaching hospital with 1300 beds, is one of the most improved in the country (see story left) and among the top performers in the region with 41 five-star ratings, but other hospitals in the region have some catching up to do. Three NHS trusts had over 100 cancelled operations which were not re-scheduled within a month — the Good Hope hospital, City Hospital and Sandwell Healthcare. Good Hope had the worst record in the country with 168 cancelled operations. Stephen Dorell, the health secretary, announced extra funding and increased operating capacity for the hospital last year and yesterday said it had improved.

Out-patients waiting Birmingham Women's Healthcare NHS Trust face one of the slowest services in the country. The trust has one of the poorest records on patients seen within 30 minutes of their appointment time at 71 per cent compared with a national average of 80 per cent. The year's one-star rating is down from last year's three-star rating, when 87 per cent of patients were seen within the 30-minute limit.

TRENT
Top performers in the Trent region are two community trusts caring for the elderly, mentally ill and mentally handicapped and a specialist cancer hospital. Central Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, which includes five community hospitals covering three towns in the county, gained 28 five-star ratings. North Derbyshire Community Healthcare Services, which runs eight community hospitals, also did well as did Western Park NHS Trust, a 118-bed specialist unit providing radiotherapy and chemotherapy for cancer patients.

Overall NHS trusts in Trent performed well with few one and two-star ratings in the seven key categories covering waiting times and cancelled operations. Pilgrim Health NHS Trust (see story left) is an exception, with the worst record in the region for out-patients seen within 30 minutes of appointment time (82 per cent compared with a national average of 80 per cent) and the worst on cancelled operations not re-scheduled within a month (13). However, it is located in another region — such as South Thames, where 12 hospitals had a worse record than the Pilgrim — it would be one of the better performers on cancelled operations.

SOUTH AND WEST
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust, which provides 1,065 beds in the city, had 46 five-stars, one of the best performances in the country. East Gloucestershire NHS Trust, which includes Cheltenham General and Gloucester hospitals, went one better with 67. Southmead Health Services NHS Trust, serving the Bristol area, cancelled 12 operations and failed to admit the patients within a month. It saw only 79 per cent of out-patients within 30 minutes of their appointment time, compared with the national average of 80 per cent.

Royal NHS Trust in Gloucester had significant improvements in promptly keeping appointments and assessing accident and emergency patients, as did Taunton & Somerset NHS Trust. In Somerset, 95 per cent of family doctor practices had a waiting time of 75 per cent. United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust, including the city's Royal Infirmary, General Hospital, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Eye Hospital and Oncology Centre, cancelled 56 operations and made the patients wait more than a month to be admitted. Swindon & Marlborough NHS Trust in Wiltshire similarly cancelled 71 operations. Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Trust had a significant deterioration in punctuality for out-patients.

NORTHERN AND YORKS
The region has several good performers but also a number of blunders. Among acute hospitals, North Tees Health NHS Trust, Northumbria Health Services NHS Trust, Harrogate Healthcare Trust and Huddersfield NHS Trust turned in the best ratings. Huddersfield Community Healthcare NHS Trust also did well.

The Cleveland Ambulance NHS Trust has one of the best response times for an urban ambulance service in the country, with 86.1 arriving within 14 minutes compared with a national average of 87.3 per cent.

Poor performers include Alfreton NHS Trust and Dewsbury Healthcare NHS Trust where, in

both cases, only 78 per cent of A&E patients are assessed within five minutes of arrival (national average: 84 per cent). At Souththorpe and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust the figure is worse at 68 per cent. NHS Trust there are long waits for an out-patient appointment with only 63 per cent seen in 13 weeks (national average: 83 per cent) and 87 per cent seen in 26 weeks (national average: 97 per cent).

NORTH WEST
Haltam General Hospital in Runcorn, Cheshire, for the second year running, is the champion general services trust in England with 39 five-star ratings out of 52. South Manchester Hospitals, including the Withington and Wythenshawe hospitals, had more five-star ratings than any other in the country with 43 out of 57. Lancashire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs Royal Lancaster Infirmary and five other hospitals and surgeries, was the most improved with 32 five-stars compared with only nine last year. North Cheshire Health Authority, serving Runcorn and Warrington, was the only in England where every family doctor practice has a Friday's Charter. But Walton Centre for Neurology & Neurosurgery NHS Trust in Liverpool had some of the worst waiting times in the country. Clatterbridge Centres for Oncology NHS Trust at Bebbington, Wirral, performed significantly worse than last year by seeing only 73 per cent of out-patients within 30 minutes of the appointment time.

There were problems with waiting times at Chorley & South Ribbles NHS Trust, which has 348 beds in two in-patient hospitals and Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, popularly known as Alder Hey.

ANGLIA AND OXFORD
Heathwood & Westham Park Hospitals NHS Trust, which has 500 beds in Barkshire, showed significant improvements in out-patient appointments and accident and emergency assessments. It also saw 100 per cent of out-patients within 26 weeks.

Other significant improvements included James Paget Hospital NHS Trust, a 550-bed hospital in Grimsby, North Lincolnshire, and West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust, serving Bury St Edmunds. Out-patient appointments were kept more than last year at East Berkshire Community Health NHS Trust serving Windsor, Maidenhead and Slough, the 900-bed Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust, Norfolk Mental Health Care NHS Trust, which serves the mentally ill and elderly, and Papworth Hospital NHS Trust in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

Cambridgeshire's NHS Trust in Cambridge saw only 84 per cent of out-patients within 30 minutes of their appointments, but this was a significant improvement on last year. Allington NHS Trust in Ipswich, Suffolk, had some of the worst waiting times for out-patients.

WALES
Powys Health Care NHS Trust in Brecon scored 100 per cent for community-nurse punctuality, home visits and for admitting patients within 12 months. No operations were cancelled without in-patient waiting times. The trust also scored well on accident and emergency assessment, providing day-one surgery instead of making people stay overnight.

Powys ambulance response times were the worst in the principality.

Wrexham Maelor Hospital NHS Trust had the lowest rate of community-nurse punctuality, with only 62 per cent seen within an hour of appointment time. It also scored poorly for accident and emergency assessments, day-one surgery and in-patient waiting times.

The hospital cancelled 30 operations without promptly admitting the patients, the worst record in Wales. The best ambulance-response time was in Ceredigion, Llanabon Hospital, where the response time was 13 per cent.

The lowest was 13 per cent in Merthyr Tydfil. There were poor waiting times at Gwynedd Hospital NHS Trust in Bangor.

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AUSTIN REED

REGENT STREET, LONDON AND BRANCHES COUNTRYWIDE

When it comes to budgets, matron still knows best

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

A TEAM of matrons has put a health trust at the top of the league tables, after being given the power and money to run nine hospitals in their image.

East Gloucestershire NHS Trust, whose reward of 47 five-star ratings is among the highest in the country, decided to scrap titles like "director of patient services" and put a matron in charge of nursing in every hospital.

They are headed by a "supermatron", the director of nursing, Maggie Lewis, who divides her week between controlling a nursing budget of £27 million and serving as matron for the 366-bed Cheltenham General Hospital, the trust's largest.

"I hope my staff say of me that I give them good leadership and am fair and consistent," she said. "But if I have to be tough, I can be."

Mrs Lewis, 43, who has been nursing for 26 years, remembers her first matron as a somewhat awesome character.

"She was stern. She was always very smartly dressed, with a crisp uniform, but she had the qualities we would look for today: excellent leadership and support of staff, putting the patient at the centre of whatever you are doing and maintaining standards."

"If you introduce yourself and say you are a matron, people look upon you as a caring person."

Unlike their starched-uniformed predecessors a generation ago, today's matrons

wear suits and have to learn about accounting. Mrs Lewis delegates her budget to ward sisters, who are each allowed to choose their staff and balance the books using agency nurses where necessary.

"If their response to me is that they came into nursing to nurse and not to look after money, I say to them that the one supports the other," she said.

The trust has cut out most of its middle-managers, and is left with one of the lowest management budgets in the country, only 3.3 per cent of spending compared with a national average of 3.9 per cent.

Its medical director is a doctor, Peter Roscoe, who shares his time between board meetings and being a consultant physician. This is a deliberate policy to keep directors' feet on the ground.



Lewis: committed to traditional values

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Advert gurus create image of a Labour not worth buying

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tory offensive launched against Labour yesterday was the first to come from the combined creative skills of Sir Tim Bell, Maurice Saatchi, and Peter Gummer.

The ageing doyens of the advertising world have been dubbed Faith, Hope and Charity by officials at Conservative Central Office. They are rivals in business but close personal friends, and are united in their desire to keep Labour out of power and secure a fifth term for the Tories. They devised the high-risk "New Labour, New Danger" strategy.

Sir Tim and Mr Saatchi were the creative forces behind Margaret Thatcher's three election victories. Peter Gummer is a relative newcomer. As head of Shandwick public relations he worked behind the scenes on the 1992 election campaign.

That was masterminded by Maurice Saatchi, Sir Tim

having been excluded from the inner-circle by Chris Patten, then the party chairman. The campaign was derided as lacklustre.

It was Sir Tim who brought the present trio together. The idea grew last summer when he helped Maurice Saatchi to establish his new company, MC Saatchi. They concluded that Tony Blair's rise in the polls owed as much to his imperviousness to incoherent Tory attacks as to any great desire among voters for a Labour government.

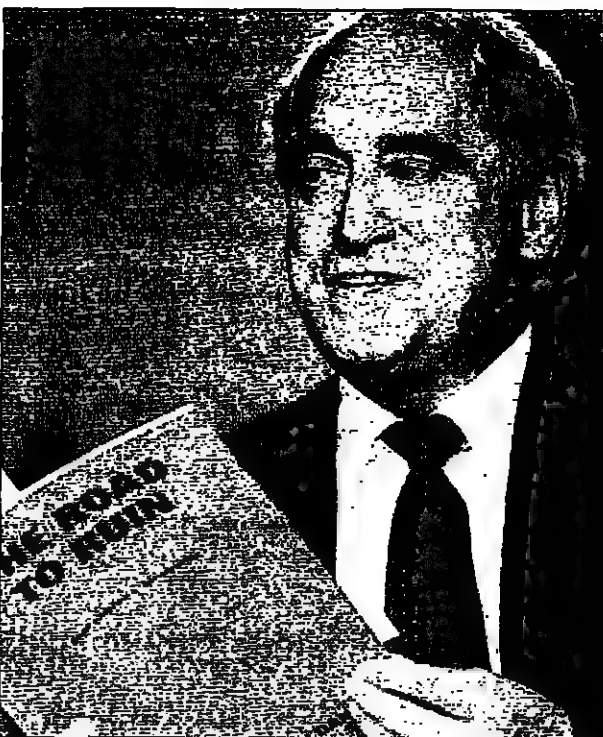
Sir Tim, at his monthly breakfast meeting with Peter Gummer at the Connaught Hotel, confided that he and Mr Saatchi were proposing to offer their services to Brian Mawhinney, the Tory Party chairman. Mr Gummer was immediately enlisted.

They met Dr Mawhinney and Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, after last year's party conference.

They unveiled a broad approach to redirect the Tory attack on the threat posed by "new" Labour. The "reflex" qualities of Mr Blair dominated the discussions. Dr Mawhinney and Mr Heseltine, frustrated by their failure to land any punches on Mr Blair, required little persuasion to change from portraying him as the smiling face of old Labour.

Mr Saatchi wrote the strategy between November and January and invented the phrase "New Labour, New Danger". At the end of January the "Three Musketeers", as they are also known at Smith Square, made a presentation to John Major in Downing Street. The Prime Minister was an instant convert. The strategy was confirmed after private research by Central Office showed that voters believed that Labour had changed under Blair.

Money rarely surfaced in



Brian Mawhinney delivering the Tory party's interpretation of new Labour thinking yesterday

the strategy discussions as assurances were given at the outset that the £10 million cost of the pre-election campaign, the longest the Tories have waged, would be underwritten. MC Saatchi will earn at least £1 million from the deal.

Hopes are high at Central Office that the campaign will run smoothly. In the past the

lines of communication between Downing Street, Central Office and the advertising people have been blurred.

Sir Tim's relationship with Mr Major is good, albeit not as close as the one he enjoys with Lady Thatcher. Mr Major is friendly with Mr Gummer but closest to Mr Saatchi. Danny Finkelstein, the head

MAWHINNEY'S GUIDE TO LABOUR POLICIES

What Labour has actually said:

Asked by Sir David Frost whether a fairer tax system meant that some people would pay less tax and quite a lot of people would pay more tax, John Prescott said: "That seems to be a reasonable interpretation about a fairer tax system."

Labour proposes to establish a new authority for London. It would have "limited spending and tax-raising powers". (A Voice for London, April 1996)

"Under my leadership I will never allow this country to be left behind or isolated in Europe." (Tony Blair to the Labour conference, 1995)

"Labour would overhaul prescription exemptions to include more people and all checks up would be free." (David Blunkett, former health spokesman, December 10, 1995)

"The Tories spend over £100 million a year on the assisted places scheme. Under Labour the scheme will be phased out." (Tony Blair to the Labour conference, 1995)

How the Tories translate it:

Under Labour government quite a lot of people would pay more tax. Beyond that we would prefer to keep our tax plans secret. After all, we are not stupid.

The valuable work of Ken Livingstone's GLC has been sorely missed in the ten years since it was senselessly scrapped by the Tories. Londoners have consistently called for its restoration.

Labour will never allow this country to be isolated in Europe. The best way of promoting British interests in Europe, and to ensure that we are not left behind as Europe integrates, is to acquiesce whenever we are in a minority.

Labour have consistently opposed all increases in charges for prescriptions, eye tests and dental care. We recognise that this places a moral duty upon us to reduce these charges on taking office. We think the provision of free eye tests to millionaires is a priority.

New Labour believes that no parents, however gifted their child in any field, should arrogantly want for their offspring a better quality of education than other local children.

of the Tory research department, who wrote the 24,000 word alternative manifesto, *The Road to Ruin*, is also close to Dr Mawhinney and the Prime Minister.

The Road to Ruin is a parody of Labour's policy statement, *The Road to the Manifesto*, which will be published on Thursday. The Tory

document is a 64-page deconstruction of every policy statement made by Labour front-benchers since Mr Blair became leader. It has been printed in a red cover to demonstrate that Labour's instincts have not changed. The name is another product of the advertising trio.

Time will tell if they suc-

ceed. Sir Tim's recent clients include Boris Yeltsin and the Meat and Livestock Commission. The word at Central Office is that if the Tories win the general election, and the fortunes of British beef are restored, Sir Tim, who was given a knighthood by Lady Thatcher, will be given a peerage by John Major.

Eternal search for slogan that sticks

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

IF THE Tories defy the odds and win a fifth successive general election, the "New Labour, New Danger" slogan will have played its part.

It is still being used in six months, the chances are that it will have stuck. The best election slogans are remembered long after the circumstances that inspired them.

Two of the men behind yesterday's launch, Sir Tim Bell and Maurice Saatchi, were responsible for the vivid "Labour Isn't Working" poster in Margaret Thatcher's 1979 campaign.

Harold Macmillan's aside in 1957: "Let us be frank, most of our people have never had it so good" was modified to "You've never had it so good", and was widely used, although not officially, to help

the Tories to win in 1959. In the 1960s, Labour's slogans were snappier than the Tories: "Let's go with Labour" (1964) and "You KNOW Labour - Government works" (1966) may have helped to win both those elections while the Tories chose the pedestrian "Action not words".

The "double whammy" and "tax bombshell" anti-Labour slogans could have helped John Major to turn the tide towards the Tories' fourth successive win, in 1992.

In earlier days, David Lloyd-George scored with his 1918 "khaki election" slogan: "What is our task? To make Britain a fit country for heroes to live in." But caution does not pay. The Tories' "Safety first" slogan in 1929 preceded a Labour victory.

Foolish comedy stunt reveals Tory desperation

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

It is a pity that no one in Conservative Central Office has a sense of the ridiculous. Otherwise, they would have prevented Brian Mawhinney and Michael Heseltine from making fools of themselves at yesterday's launch of the party's new attack on Labour. The contrived and embarrassing event was more than just a misplaced media gimmick. It showed how desperate and confused the Tories are.

Of course, all parties now stage-manage their launches. But the attempt by Dr Mawhinney and Mr Heseltine to be funny misfired badly. They ridiculed "new" Labour's promises — "what else struck you as interesting, Michael" — before reading extracts from a laboured 64-page parody of its policies, called *The Road to Ruin*. But Dr Angry and Mr Competitiveness are hardly an ideal light comedy double act. They will not rival re-runs of the two Ronnies or Morecambe and Wise. And political journalists are not the audience for this type of cringe-making drivel.

More serious are the defects in *The Road to Ruin*. On the left-hand pages are lists of quotations from Labour spokesmen and from party documents, together with a partisan, but not entirely tendentious, commentary. That is a run-of-the-mill research exercise to highlight contradictions in Labour plans.

More dubious is the attempted parody of "New Labour's Real Manifesto" on right-hand pages. That is crass where it is not plain silly.

The Road to Ruin is full of wild exaggerations — for instance, ignoring the fact that regional assemblies for England would only be created at the end of a long process when clear public demand was demonstrated in a region via a referendum. It is also odd for the Tories to argue that "New Labour's Bill of Rights for New Britain will ensure that ultimate political power rests with unelected judges" when we are already signatories of the European Convention of Human Rights, which ensures that rulings are made by judges overseas. The real flaw is that parody works only

when it is delivered by people who are themselves trusted, and the Tories no longer are in view of their record of higher public spending and taxes.

Moreover, the Tories cannot even stick consistently to the line that Labour is now "new" in its approach. Mr Heseltine seems to hanker after the former, theoretically dropped, strategy. On BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*, he said: "A new danger for Labour is that old Labour will actually re-emerge if they were in power." What are we to believe: is Labour "old" or "new"?

Mr Blair's statement tomorrow is intended to make all previous party proposals redundant. It will seek to offer reassurance through the discarding of past ideological baggage. Will the Tories, therefore, be rewriting *The Road to Ruin* to take account of these changes? Mr Blair will try to escape from the charge that Labour can only appear radical by promising more money. Instead, the main emphasis will be on five explicit, and illustrious, pledges on transferring money within programmes. Even here Mr Blair is being cautious. There will be no time scale on when money can be switched from the assisted places scheme to reducing class sizes or from NHS bureaucracy to cutting waiting lists. And key questions on welfare reform are seen as too sensitive, not least electorally, to be tackled in opposition.

Mr Blair has, of course, offended some in his party, but he believes that Labour requires such shock treatment if the party is to change — and most people will accept in the end that it is the right thing to do. The Tories' slogan, "New Labour, New Danger", is better than their previous efforts, but it shows yet again that Mr Blair is setting the political agenda: as the Opposition's new poster will say, "New Labour — Now It's Official".

PETER RIDDELL

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Karadzic appears on TV in defiance of Dayton accord

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

SATISFIED that he had outmanoeuvred Carl Bildt, the international mediator, in the latest game of cat-and-mouse diplomacy, Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, has begun to make television appearances lambasting the international community for trying to unseat him.

The Serb Democratic Party has voted unanimously to nominate Dr Karadzic, twice indicted for war crimes by the international tribunal in The

Hague, as its presidential candidate in Bosnian elections on September 14.

Both acts are breaches of the Dayton accords as well as subsequent agreements brokered by Mr Bildt, but they are representative of consistent Serb determination to undermine the fragile peace process.

Under the Dayton peace plan, indicted war criminals are prohibited from holding or running for public office, and under an agreement brokered

by Mr Bildt in May Dr Karadzic is prohibited from being seen or heard in public.

In spite of Dr Karadzic's disregard for the Dayton accord and for Mr Bildt, the international representative spent most of yesterday in Pale meeting the Bosnian Serb leadership. Unwilling to admit that he had again been duped by the renegade leader, Mr Bildt continued to insist that Dr Karadzic had relinquished his presidential powers, even though the Bosnian Serb leader and Biljana Plavsic, his supposed replacement, have said the indicted war criminal retains the title of President.

"We've been informed that all powers and all the functions of the presidency of the Republika Srpska have been transferred to Mrs Plavsic in accordance with the provisions of the Republika Srpska constitution," Mr Bildt said.

Dr Karadzic has not yet accepted the SDS presidential nomination, and sources close to his cabinet of hardliners in Pale said the renegade leader would probably decline, owing to pressure from the international community and Belgrade. However, because the fugitive has been permitted to flout the will of the international community, a decision by him to run in the election would not come as a



William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, meets US troops serving with the international Bosnia peace force at an air base in Tazsar, Hungary, yesterday

US plans military base in Hungary

THE Clinton Administration, which has insisted that American troops will leave the former Yugoslavia at the end of the year, is reported to be planning to open a permanent training base for Nato-led troops in the region (Eve-Ann Prentice and Tom Rhodes write). The move is bound to infuriate Russia and fuel Americans' fears of long-term US involvement in the region.

America is negotiating to lease a large swath of land around Pec and possibly at other sites in Hungary near the border with Serbia and Croatia. The Budapest re-

gime is reported to be delighted at the prospect, believing that the presence of US troops would smooth its path in the Partnership for Peace link with Nato.

William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, was in Budapest yesterday, holding talks with Hungarian ministers about the future of the Nato-led Implementation Force in the former Yugoslavia, ifor.

The European Union and the United Nations have felt increasingly that an international presence is needed in the former Yugoslavia far longer than December.

Dr Karadzic has not yet accepted the SDS presidential nomination, and sources close to his cabinet of hardliners in Pale said the renegade leader would probably decline, owing to pressure from the international community and Belgrade. However, because the fugitive has been permitted to flout the will of the international community, a decision by him to run in the election would not come as a

surprise to many seasoned observers in Bosnia. In his television address, Dr Karadzic equated the international community's attempts to unseat him as part of a conspiracy directed against the Serb people as a whole.

"If they [the international community] believed in their thesis that the leadership is extreme and the people moderate... they would let elec-

tions proceed in a democratic way," Dr Karadzic said. "But they know that the people are determined to have their own country and oppose any forced mixing with others... That is why they will try everything so that the SDS does not win."

Dr Karadzic's attempt to equate his fate with the common Serb people seems to be working. The louder the international community clamours

for the resignation of the Serb leader, the more ordinary people are inclined to back him.

"Radovan Karadzic is a great defender of the Serb people," said Dusko Delipara, a 45-year-old man working at Pale's central market. "I feel like it is him and me together. I do not know why the world is putting all this pressure on Karadzic."

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Dracula fans to celebrate author's stake in a world legend

FROM SEAN HILLEN IN BUCHAREST

GOTHIC literature specialists and vampirologists have unearthed plans for what is expected to be the largest celebration yet in honour of Bram Stoker, the Irish architect of Count Dracula's dark deeds.

With the centennial of the classic book's publication approaching, Dracula followers in Dublin, Whiteby, New York and, of course, Transylvania have lifted the lid on a range of activities to mark the achievements of Stoker, whose book has never been out of print, with editions in more than 50 languages, including Japanese and Gaelic.

Thanks to the co-operation of members of Dracula clubs worldwide, special literary, cultural and historical congresses and gala Dracula balls will be held, with the largest taking place in the United States. Jeanne Youngson, founder of the Count Dracula Fan Club in New York, said those invited include Christopher Lee, remembered for his film role as Dracula. Miss Youngson's club is the largest in the world, with more than 5,000 members.

In honour of the Irish writer and one-time theatre critic, a public park in Clonarf, Dublin, has just been renamed Bram Stoker Park and mystery-horror walks of the city are

being launched. Dennis McIntyre and Leslie Shepherd, leaders of the Bram Stoker International Summer School, have unveiled plans for a permanent Stoker museum and persuaded the Irish postal service to produce a commemorative stamp.

"It is really long past time that full recognition was given to the accomplishments of Stoker," said Mr McIntyre, a teacher.

To give the centennial celebration plans a suitable send-off, Vincent Hillier, an author, has offered a reward of £5,000 in gold for anyone who takes him a vampire.

Clive Leatherdale, a British author and owner of Desert Island Books, said: "It is a shame Stoker's work is

considered pop culture by the literary elite when it is so well accepted in the United States and elsewhere in literary and academic circles."

Fresh stabs at merchandising by various groups have produced a range of Dracula items, and tours are being organised to the sites of Vlad Tepes, the Romanian hero who impaled enemies on wooden stakes and, in part, inspired Stoker's character.

Stoker published *Dracula* in April 1897, but his wife, Florence, sold the working notes for less than £5 in 1913. Since then, directors, actors and writers have been counting their blessings and immense profits from films about the Cursed One.



Christopher Lee: invited to centennial ball in New York

Nato cannot let Kremlin draw map of Europe

A silence worthy of Harold Pinter has been hanging over the West since the start of the Russian election campaign: do not talk in detail about Nato enlargement lest it frighten the Bear and unseat Boris Yeltsin.

Whoever sits in the Kremlin next week, the Nato taboo has to yield. There has been talk of a "window of opportunity" for Central Europe in the gap between the Russian and American presidential elections. President Clinton and most Nato foreign ministers in Berlin last month were agreed that it would be better to expand the alliance step by step in conversation with the Russians. Bob Dole, the Republican presidential candidate, wants an end to the ambiguity and a summit in Prague in 1998.

Nato enlargement will be the first big test of relations between the newly elected US and Russian leaders. As during the Communist era, its Ostpolitik depends on balancing the German-Russian special relationship with the needs of Central Europe. The premise of that policy — to accept Soviet hegemony over Central Europe, make an accommodation with "liberal" Communists and boost trade — remains essentially unchanged, despite the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The Clinton Administration has evolved from its initial "Russia first" policy and is now in tune with the German approach. Both President Clinton and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, have put their chips on Mr Yeltsin.

The softer tone adopted by Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, at the Berlin Nato meeting has encouraged the West to believe that the bet was correctly placed. Mr Primakov hinted that Moscow could accept the principle of Nato enlargement, providing that no military infrastructure was moved to the Russian border.

However, Aleksandr Lebed, as Mr Yeltsin's running mate, has changed the climate. It is safe to assume

that he will speak on behalf of the military on enlargement: Nato is still the designated enemy in Russian staff college exercises.

A Kremlin driven by General Lebed pitted against an unambiguous Mr Dole would make for a shift in a relationship which many believe to be unduly weighted in Moscow's favour.

In some ways a victory by Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist, would be preferable for the Germans than a Yeltsin-Lebed win. German businessmen came out of a Bonn dinner with Mr Zyuganov two months ago persuaded that he, recognising his dependence on Western capital, would give ground on some issues.

Why does Nato enlargement pose a problem for Russia? The point of reference is, of course, not the European members of the alliance but America, which Russia secretly admires and also secretly fears.

Not many Central Europeans are convinced by this argument. For sound historical reasons they do not like being sandwiched between Russia and Germany. For Poland, a US security guarantee has become indispensable.

Moscow has launched a campaign to persuade wavering states that their best interests lie with Russia rather than with Nato. Bulgaria, with its heavy dependence on Russian energy supplies, is vulnerable. So, it seems, is Slovakia. Enthusiasm for Nato membership in Slovakia has cooled.

The day after the Russian election, the West has thus to gear itself up for trouble with Moscow. The Russians are convinced that Nato is drawing new maps in Europe and will do almost anything to prevent it. But to pay heed to the Russians is to give Moscow the right to chart its own maps. That has been tried before — with unhappy results.

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not let n draw Europe

COMMENTARY

that he will speak on behalf of the military on the anniversary of the end of the war. He will also speak on the anniversary of the end of the war.

A Kremlin spokesman said that the military would make a shift in its relationship with the civilian government. He said that the military would make a shift in its relationship with the civilian government.

In a move that could be seen as a sign of the military's growing influence, the Russian government has announced that it will be giving the military a larger role in the country's internal security.

The move comes as the Russian government faces growing opposition from the public. The government has been accused of corruption and of failing to address the country's economic problems.

However, the military has been seen as a more reliable force. It has been praised for its role in the country's reunification and for its efforts to maintain order in the country.

The move is seen as a sign of the military's growing influence in the country. It is also seen as a sign of the government's growing dependence on the military.

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Ill Yeltsin needs high voter turnout to secure victory

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW



MILLIONS of voters will turn out at polls across Russia today in a run-off presidential election to decide whether the country continues on its unsteady road to reform or returns to its Communist past.

After a long, painful and expensive campaign President Yeltsin, the ailing Russian leader, appeared on the eve of the election to have consolidated a small, but solid, lead over Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party candidate.

Experts issued a warning, however, that much would depend on the turnout of voters today, a public holiday. Unpredictable factors ranging from the weather to the allure of the countryside and the extent of voter apathy could decide the margin between the two candidates.

A high turnout, above 60 per cent, seems certain to give Mr Yeltsin a comfortable victory. Anything near 50 per cent would favour Mr Zyuganov, who has a dedicated following of about one-third of the population.

Under Russia's electoral laws campaigning is forbidden on the eve of elections, a rule that suited Mr Yeltsin, who has virtually disappeared from public view for the past week because of ill-health. He

has promised, however, to emerge from his country residence this morning and to appear before the world's press to cast his ballot.

The ban on campaigning did not stop the Communists from continuing to complain that they had been subjected to "tough political censorship" by state-controlled television and the heavily pro-Yeltsin press. They maintained yesterday that Russia's largest television network had refused to broadcast a legitimate political advertisement.

As though to confirm their allegations, Moscow's newspapers kept up their anti-Zyuganov coverage, albeit in a slightly more subtle form. *Moskovsky Komsomolsky*, the mass circulation daily, chose to highlight the failure of the new communist Government in Bulgaria and ran a headline

about general election results in Mongolia. "Even the Mongols have given up communism," it said. "Are we more stupid?"

Izvestia, the respected evening newspaper, ran an interview with Patriarch Aleksii II, the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church, who has implicitly backed Mr Yeltsin throughout the campaign and this time praised the changes of the past five years.

"We are choosing not a political personality but a path for the country," he said, echoing similar remarks made by the President in his last televised address to voters on Monday.

Possibly the most important factor working in Mr Yeltsin's favour is his newly ally, General Aleksandr Lebed, the former paratrooper who came third in the first round of the election and has since been appointed Russia's National Security Adviser.

The gruff former Afghan war veteran again beat the nationalist drum during a press conference yesterday, vowing to crack down on foreigners coming into Russia and to curb the spread of religious cults.

Although he did not mention the election, the latest example of his tough talking may be enough to persuade most of his 11 million voters to switch their allegiance to Mr Yeltsin.

□ Grozny: Chechens and Russian servicemen cast their ballots yesterday, but an explosion disrupted voting in the Chechen capital. Officials said that 18 per cent of Chechens took part, while turnout among the military was traditionally high, about 98 per cent.

The blast shattered windows in a block of flats near the main government offices in Grozny and injured several tenants, *Tass* said.

Voting began a day early in Chechnya because of the 19-month-old war between Russian troops and Chechen separatists. The polls will stay open today when voters elsewhere in Russia go to cast their ballots. (AP)

Poll jitters afflict the nouveau riches

BY RICHARD BEESTON

IN THE leafy northern suburbs of Moscow the peace is disturbed only by the sound of builders erecting new mansions for the nouveaux riches or the roar of a foreign sports car.

While the rest of rural Russia may be turning out today in their millions to back

THE ELITE

Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party candidate for the presidency, the village of Zhukovka, Russia's answer to Beverly Hills, is guaranteed to remain true-blue Yeltsin territory.

"I have to say I am pleased with my life and my work in Russia," said Viktor, a young businessman sporting the designer sunglasses and black silk shirt favoured by the "New Russians", the country's newly minted class of entrepreneurs and bankers. "I have Yeltsin to thank for giving me a chance, so you can be sure I will be voting for him," he said.

His views were echoed among the business, political and cultural elite, whose BMWs and Range Rovers vie for space in the tiny village market, which once only sold home-grown vegetables but now offers everything from caviar to French wines.



New homes have mushroomed in areas like Zhukovka. But prices have fallen because of fears of a Communist victory

However, beneath the veneer of wealth and confidence, there is also deep-rooted concern that President Yeltsin's re-election bid may, like his health, falter at the last moment and pave the way for a return to Communist rule.

"If Zyuganov wins, for sure there will be a civil war," said Sasha, 25, stepping out of his new keep. "He won't admit it, but he wants to drag this country back to Stalin's era. Those of us who live here will be first on his hit-list and we

won't go quietly." That feeling of uncertainty is confirmed by estate agents.

They complain that their *kottedzhi*, the multi-storey red-brick mansions which have been mushrooming around suburban Moscow, have proved harder and harder to sell since the Communist victory in December's parliamentary elections.

In Zhukovka, for instance, a three-storey home complete with sauna and tennis court, which a year ago could have fetched nearly £500,000, is

today on the market for a mere £300,000. "No one wants to commit themselves to buying. Everyone wants to rent," said Dmitri Semenyuk, who runs the Two Dmitris estate agents. "They are all scared of a Zyuganov victory. They suspect that the Communists will confiscate all second properties if they come to power again."

Judging from the heavily booked airline flights out of Moscow tomorrow, pre-election jitters have certainly sent a shiver through the commun-

ity, although not everyone seems to be so fearful of the future.

At the Tsar's Hunting Lodge, Zhukovka's newest and smartest restaurant, the manager is quietly confident that President Yeltsin will win and that, even if he does not, life will go on.

"The most important thing is that democracy continues in Russia, whoever wins," said Mikhail, sipping his first espresso of the day. "Even the Communists will need restaurants."

Zyuganov falters in industrial wasteland

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN IVANOV, RUSSIA

OUTSIDE Ivanovo railway station Viktor Novikov, a former bulldozer driver, looked like one of the people Dostoyevsky called "the insulted and the injured". A white cap was set unsteadily on his head, several of his teeth were broken and blood was drying on his nose.

But, despite his meagre pension, Mr Novikov said he was voting for Boris Yeltsin in today's election. "The Communists gave me nothing," he said. "Under them I saw nothing good. I want to live quietly and freely."

Ivanovo, 150 miles northeast of Moscow, is the kind of depressed industrial city which Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist candidate, should win if he is to become the next President. Unemployment, at around

25 per cent, is extremely high. The town of textile mills was once called the "Manchester of Russia" and has a strong tradition of working-class dissent. The first Russian soviet, the workers' councils that became a foundation stone of the Soviet Union, was formed here in 1905.

But all the evidence indicates that Mr Zyuganov has fallen a long way short of his target and that Mr Yeltsin is heading comfortably for victory. The worries about the President's health appear to have made no impact here.

The Communist campaign is virtually invisible. There are no posters for Mr Zyuganov but banners over the main street proclaim "Russia and Yeltsin are indivisible today".

Ivanovo was in the vanguard of the

campaign by General Aleksandr Lebed, the third-placed candidate in the first round of the vote on June 16. He came second here with a stunning 30 per cent of the vote, only 800 votes fewer than Mr Yeltsin.

Asked about General Lebed's surge in Ivanovo, Arkadi Romanov, editor of the local newspaper, *Rabochy Kraz*, laughed: "We have a revolutionary tradition." The general's voters, he said, had come from "everywhere".

Lebed voters will not go over to the Communists. Tatyana Okunova, an unemployed woman, said she feared a return to queues and rationing under a Zyuganov presidency. "If the Communists come to power it might suddenly get worse," she said, explaining why she would be voting against both candidates.

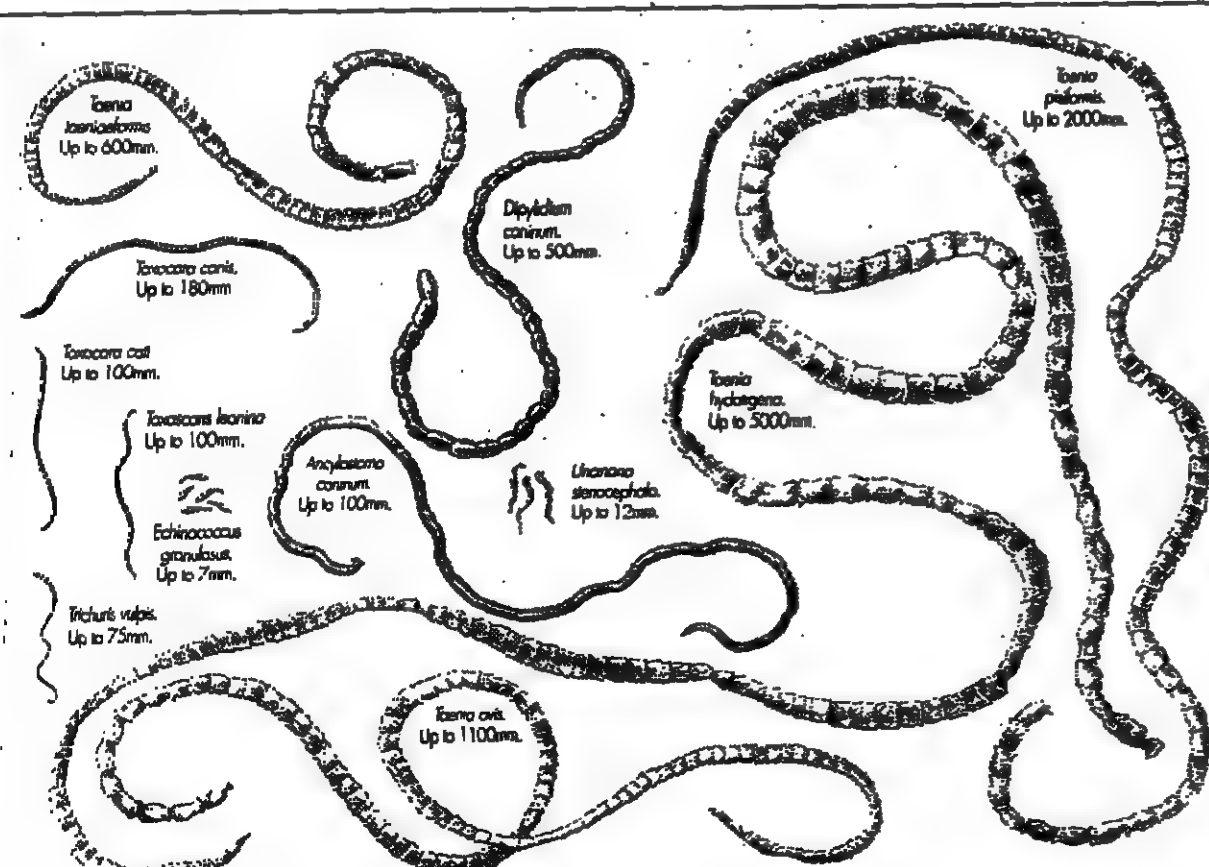
Many more Lebed supporters were now backing Mr Yeltsin. "I thought

that Lebed would impose some order," said Galina Shabershina, a social worker. "But now Yeltsin has taken him on to his team and taken on part of his programme, that's good."

The support for Mr Yeltsin here is all the more striking for coming against a background of economic crisis. The Krasnaya Talka textile factory, which dates back to 1930, is producing only one-sixth of its capacity. But according to Aleksandr Tokarev, the chief engineer, the worst is now over and a change of government would be disastrous. "If two or three years can pass normally, everything will start to fall into place," he said.

Konstantin, an unshaven man selling sunflower seeds, was a rare Zyuganov supporter, but even he was reconciled to a Yeltsin victory. "The people here are like sheep. They go where they're ordered," he said.

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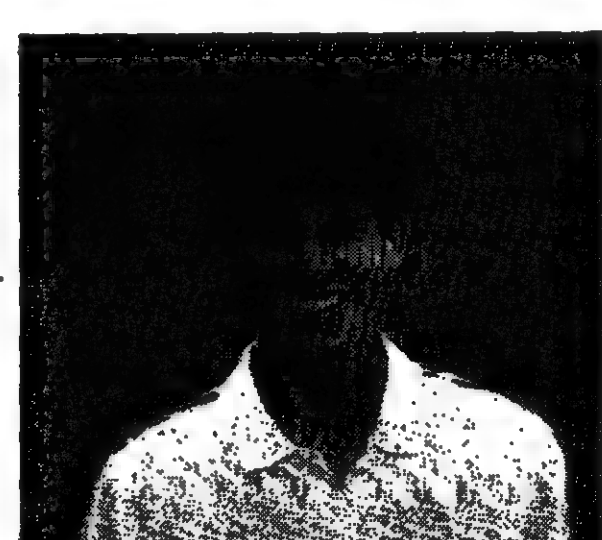


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Double life sentences for Menendez brothers

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE Menendez brothers, who killed their parents in 1989, were yesterday sentenced to a California court to life in prison, with no chance of parole.

Lyle, 28, and Erik Menendez, 25, demonstrated little reaction when they heard Judge Stanley Weisberg accept the recommendation of the jury and pass two consecutive life terms on each at Van Nuys Superior Court, Los Angeles. Throughout the case's two murder trials, watched by a grimly fascinated America, the two showed little emotion, and yesterday was no exception.

However, when the sentence was announced the brothers' aunt, listening from the public gallery, broke into tears and there was a gasp of dismay from Anna Eriksson, a pen pal of Lyle Menendez who in the course of writing to him in prison fell in love with the murderer. She, dressed still in bridal white, had hoped to marry Menendez in a courtroom wedding on Monday, but the ceremony was stopped at the eleventh hour when a judge ruled that public funds should not be used for such a marriage.

Life imprisonment was widely expected for the brothers, who shot their 45-year-old businessman father, Jose Menendez, and his ex-model wife, Kitty, at the family's Beverly Hills home. They had hoped

to get their hands on their father's fortune.

They will have a chance to appeal, but initial remarks from their lawyer suggested that they will accept the sentencing rather than persist with a legal fight which comprised two murder trials. In the first trial twin juries were unable to reach verdicts, but in April the second trial ended with a single jury deciding that the brothers were guilty.

The handsome and well-educated duo maintained that they were sexually abused by their father, who had been a leading swimmer and who fled Fidel Castro's Cuba to make his fortune in the pop music recording world. They

claimed to have acted out of self-defence, and said that their mother had done little to help them when they were being mistreated by their father. Later they claimed that she, too, had preyed on their sexuality.

Friends of Mr and Mrs Menendez described, instead, a couple who simply sought to exert discipline on their two young sons.

The couple died from wounds inflicted by a 12-bore shotgun. The two young men claimed that they had returned home that evening to find their parents dead and they were initially treating as grieving sons, even reading tributes to the murdered

couple at their funeral. It was only when they started to spend their father's money that they started to excite the suspicions of the police. A statement by a former mistress of Lyle Menendez's psychiatrist later proved vital in the case. While standing at the door of Dr Jerome Oziel's treatment room, she heard Lyle state he was responsible for the murders.

Later, Erik Menendez said of the shootings: "I just fired this gun, this stupid big gun. All I can remember is firing. There was lots of smoke ... real eerie." The word "eerie" was also used by veteran police officers on the case who said that they had never known killers so adept at falsifying emotions and alibi, or known a case so bitter.

David Dunn, a member of the prosecution team, said yesterday: "It is a very fair sentence and certainly one that fits the crime."

His satisfaction was in marked contrast to Leslie Abramson, the Menendez defence lawyer, who appeared close to tears after the sentencing. She said that in the course of the case she had come to regard the brothers as "part of a large, extended family" and described them as "wonderful people". She intended to stay in close contact with Erik and Lyle, adding: "The legal part is over, but the human part continues."



Erik, left, and Lyle Menendez, who were found guilty of murdering their parents in a case that riveted America



Anna Eriksson, Lyle Menendez's pen pal, who was refused permission to marry him

WORLD SUMMARY

Jobs bar violates EU treaty

Luxembourg: The European Court of Justice yesterday ordered Belgium, Greece and Luxembourg to stop reserving state jobs, ranging from telephone engineers to opera singers, for their own citizens.

The court ruled that the three countries had repeatedly breached the Treaty of Rome, which guarantees the freedom of movement of workers throughout the union. Only jobs with a link to national security can be restricted to a country's citizens. Greece, the worst offender of the three, refuses to allow foreigners to work for state television or radio, at the Athens opera or in municipal orchestras. (AP)

Floods leave 300,000 homeless

Delhi: Indian troops carried out rescue missions in the far-eastern state of Assam, where thousands were flooded out of their homes by heavy monsoon rains that have killed 500 over the past month, newspapers reported. Thirty-two camps have been set up to care for an estimated 52,000 refugees. The number of homeless is put at 300,000. In neighbouring Bangladesh, flooding overwhelmed several thousand homes and swamped low-lying areas of the capital Dhaka. (AFP)

Victims of dam to get payout

Kuala Lumpur: The east Malaysian state of Sarawak will pay £77 million to 9,428 tribal residents displaced by the giant Bakun hydroelectric project. The scale of the dam, which will flood 170,000 acres of rainforest, has been criticised by local environmentalists. Three of the tribal groups had obtained a court ruling to stop its construction, but the ruling was overturned on Saturday by Malaysia's court of appeal. (Reuters)

Singapore jails Bible woman

Singapore: A 72-year-old grandmother opted for seven days' imprisonment rather than pay a \$5700 (£320) fine for owning a Bible and other literature published by the banned Jehovah's Witnesses. Yu Nguk Ding, a retired nurse, began serving her term immediately. She is the oldest person to be tried under Singapore's Undesirable Publications Act. (Reuters)

Pollution leaves Athens gasping

Athens: Dozens of Athenians were rushed to hospitals, the latest victims of a stifling combination of air pollution and scorching heat. The Greek capital's emergency service said. About 40 residents received treatment, primarily for heart and respiratory problems as the temperature reached 36C (96F). (AFP)

Former spy chief killed by mistake

Dar es Salaam: Tanzanian police have shot dead Major-General Imran Kombe, the country's former director of intelligence, after mistaking him for a car thief near the northeastern town of Moshi. Five police and a civilian are being held. (AFP)

Legacy of blood blinds Spain to Franco's virtues

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

COMMENTARY

TWENTY years ago today, with the appointment of Adolfo Suarez as Prime Minister, Spain began its return to democracy. With this anniversary — and that of the start of the Civil War on July 18 — Spaniards can anticipate a lengthy season of looking back.

Yet in the weeks of seminars and reminiscences to come, few in Spain will speak positively of Francisco Franco. The man who ruled Spain from 1939 to his death in 1975 will be painted as usual in monstrous colours.

The themes of national memory will lead uncritically to a simple, even naive, conclusion: no good can lie with Franco. He will be attacked with gusto by old Left and new Right alike, the former by dint of habit, the latter in an unseemly scramble to distance itself from his memory. Both will be wrong to do so, and

an anti-clerical intelligentsia — were all present well before the dictator's birth.

If there were brutal killings after the war ended, these could well have been exceeded if the ill-disciplined Republicans had won. One has only to examine the Republican record of intolerance, anti-clerical pogroms and ideological fanaticism to understand that this was not a war between romantic "angels" and a Falangist "devil".

Although at a price, Franco brought tranquillity to Spain. He saved his country from the very worst species of Communist government, one which could conceivably have made a nasty underbelly for Europe in the Cold War.

Yet most important of all, Franco gave Spain the industrial revolution it had missed in the 19th century. He also gave Spain an extended middle class, whose historical absence on the Iberian peninsula had been the source of such instability. He switched pragmatically from his unsuccessful policy of "autarky" in the 1950s to economic integration with the Western world, swiftly securing membership of the OECD, the IMF and the World Bank for Spain.



Francisco attacked by Left and Right

The technocratic Roman Catholic lay order Opus Dei, who are the object of so much hatred in Spain today, drove the country towards affluence with their neo-liberal, profit-Thatcherite methods. The Spanish economy enjoyed growth rates of 9 per cent throughout the 1960s and was then the fastest-growing in the OECD. That growing, unlike the meretricious boom of the 1980s, subsidised by Brussels, represented real growth.

Francisco's most cunning move was related to his country's monarchy. His nomination of Prince Juan Carlos as King in 1969 was a stroke of vision, ensuring that the Head of State after his death would be a man of common sense, simplicity and grace.

King Juan Carlos, ironically, has been the most effective guarantor of Spain's democracy in the post-Franco age, an age which has been taught well how to hate the man it has not yet learnt how to measure.

crats of the Roman Catholic lay order Opus Dei, who are the object of so much hatred in Spain today, drove the country towards affluence with their neo-liberal, profit-Thatcherite methods. The Spanish economy enjoyed growth rates of 9 per cent throughout the 1960s and was then the fastest-growing in the OECD. That growing, unlike the meretricious boom of the 1980s, subsidised by Brussels, represented real growth.

Francisco's most cunning move was related to his country's monarchy. His nomination of Prince Juan Carlos as King in 1969 was a stroke of vision, ensuring that the Head of State after his death would be a man of common sense, simplicity and grace.

King Juan Carlos, ironically, has been the most effective guarantor of Spain's democracy in the post-Franco age, an age which has been taught well how to hate the man it has not yet learnt how to measure.

Clinton's popularity holds up under fire

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

NEW polls showed President Clinton's lead over Bob Dole narrowing yesterday, with public distrust of the first couple growing. But what was most surprising, given the beating Mr and Mrs Clinton have recently endured, was that the President's popularity had not fallen further.

A Washington Post-ABC News survey gave Mr Clinton a 14-point lead over his Republican challenger, down from 22 points in mid-May. A CNN-USA Today Gallup put Mr Clinton 15 points ahead, compared to 19 two weeks ago.

The Post poll showed 56 per cent of respondents believed the White House acquisition of hundreds of FBI background files on Republican officials was an "intentional abuse of power" and 24 per cent of Gallup's respondents accepted the White House line that "Fleegate" was an honest mistake.

Regarding Whitewater, the Post poll showed that by 49 per cent to 42, respondents doubted Mr Clinton had told the truth, and by 46 per cent to 44 they believed he had broken the law. For the first time a majority — 53 per cent — thought Hillary Clinton had committed a crime, and nearly 60 per cent believed she had been untruthful.

But the two polls showed Mr Clinton still enjoying relatively healthy job approval ratings of 56 and 52 per cent.

Political commentators advance several reasons why Mr Clinton has not suffered more damage than he has from the charges hurled at the White House in recent days.

They point to the weakness of Mr Dole's candidacy, the strength of the economy, the unsavoury and partisan nature of the Clintons' most vocal critics, and the public's diminished expectations of their politicians.

Americans knew Mr Clinton was no saint when they elected him in 1992. "The viciousness and triviality of public life in Washington has created a deep national scepticism ... an assumption that they're all just crooks, that it's all just politics," wrote Joe Klein, a Newsweek columnist.

Leading article, page 21

Fear of Olympics terror attack as Arizona militia group seized

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE arrest of a small paramilitary group in Arizona renewed fears in Washington yesterday that radical groups may be planning to target the Olympics in Atlanta.

The Viper Militia members were taken into custody following a six-month investigation by federal agents after allegedly planning a series of attacks on federal buildings.

"I think these arrests have increased our awareness even more and brought home the fact that there are people out there who will go to great lengths to undermine the Government," said a Pentagon official involved in security planning for the Olympics. "It just makes us even more prepared for Atlanta."

The Vipers unit, which included ten men and two

women, allegedly plotted for two years to destroy the police headquarters and several federal buildings in Phoenix. A thirteenth person was detained yesterday on charges of stockpiling weapons had been rejected for membership of the radical militia.

Officials of the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service, the Internal Revenue Service and the Arizona National Guard were all described by the Justice Department as possible targets for the group.

Evidence against the organisation is contained in 12 videotapes of meetings at which members describe their plans in detail and discuss the testing of bombs in the desert.

The charges include the illegal possession of four automatic rifles and of various chemicals used to make explosives.

The arrests have sparked memories of the bombing in Oklahoma City last year which killed 168. Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, the two suspects in America's worst act of terrorism, had links to armed militias in Michigan and Arizona and are alleged to have used ammonium nitrate at Oklahoma, a chemical said to have been employed by the group in Phoenix. At least 400lb of ammonium nitrate and other chemicals were seized by agents in one of the homes raided.

Little is known about the genesis of the Viper Militia, although its leader was identified as Randy Nelson, 32, who lives in a city suburb. The term Viper is common to paramilitary literature in the United States and is generally found in references to Operation American Viper, a strategy paper that professes to be a war plan to counter an impending invasion by the United Nations. The document, which is required reading for conspiracy theorists, predicts UN forces will take over America and implement a new world order.

According to an affidavit filed with the charges, the Vipers required all members to undertake an oath which pledged they would enter "into mortal combat against enemies of the US Constitution and US militia".

Peace force seeks to avert genocide

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

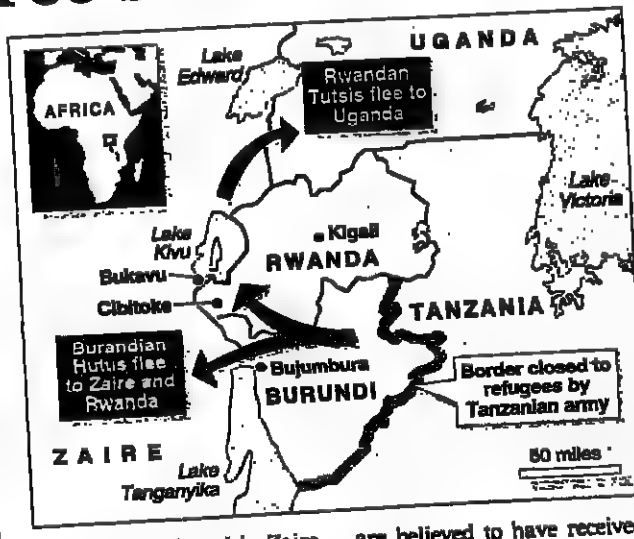
AFRICAN military intervention to end bloodshed between Hutus and Tutsis in Burundi came a step closer yesterday after regional defence ministers met to draw up operational details for such a mission.

Edgar Majoro, the Tanzanian Defence Minister, said after the talks that Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia had agreed to set up an intervention force "capable of guaranteeing security in Burundi and providing the right atmosphere for former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere's peace efforts".

Mr Nyerere has struggled to end Hutu and Tutsi bloodletting, which has claimed 150,000 lives in three years.

The request for an intervention force came last week as escalating violence in the northwest of Burundi drove more than 4,000 refugees into Rwanda and Zaire. Aid officials said yesterday the refugees, all Hutus, had fled massacres in Cibitoke, the most dangerous area of Burundi, but it was not clear whether the killers had been Hutu rebels or Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army.

The area forms the southern tip of a triangle of terror on the borders of Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi and the violence is orchestrated by Rwandan



Hutu militias based in Zaire. No Westerners have been in the area since three Swiss Red Cross delegates were murdered there last month.

The United Nations estimates that 100 people, mainly civilians, are dying in ethnic violence in Burundi daily. The Tutsi army has cleared the capital of almost all Hutus. But Hutu rebels in Burundi

are believed to have received weapons and training from Rwandan Hutus responsible for the genocide of a million people in that country in 1994.

"The root cause of the intervention is that Burundi is marching unimpeded towards genocide and it is important that we do not hold our hands," said Mr Majoro, who chaired yesterday's talks.

Diplomats said that America and Belgium had offered to pay for a large part of the all-African intervention force as well as to help with the logistics. But no date has been set for its deployment, since Tutsi and Hutu extremists have rejected the force.

"The only glimmer of hope for Burundi is that the call for intervention came from the Hutu President [Sylvestre Ntibunganya] and the Tutsi Prime Minister [Antoine Nduwayo], said a Western diplomat in Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi. "They are very brave men hoping to rescue the middle ground from the extremists, and have now dared to invite help from outside. The world should applaud them, and pray that they survive."

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Check it out

Strictly for the beautiful people. Valentino's slinky designs have never required, or desired, much underwear. So what can have persuaded the Italian designer to bring out support pants? The sight of a sagging bottom bulging through one of his creations? Who knows. But we promise this is true: Valentino Intimo skin-tone knickers with support panels are now available from Selfridges and Harrods, priced £30 a pair.

A bag with bite

Despite Euro 96, Marie Helvin's party at the Halyon last Wednesday was packed with A-list celebrities. But who was the blonde woman with the barking handbag? No one seemed to know. She came prepared to make an impression, with the ultimate need-to-have accessory — a handbag that looks like a shih-tzu dog, designed by society favourite Lulu Guinness. Whenever a guest approached, the mystery blonde broke into a high-pitched yapping. Sadly, her party-piece did not have quite the desired effect. Several party-goers, including Brian Eno, were seen heading swiftly in the opposite direction.

Join the twin-set

First the two little dress. Now the two little twin-set. Toca, worn by Helena Christensen, is extending its range. Cardies and twin-sets are soon to be available from Shop, in Soho, where the likes of Kylie and Björk get their creations.



Helena Christensen: a Toca pet

TRIED AND TESTED

Long-haul flights can wreak havoc on the legs and face, causing dehydration and discomfort. We tested five freshening sprays en route to New York.

■ CRABTREE & EVELYN, Aloe Vera Cooling Foot Spray, £5.25/75ml. Packaging: 6/10. Stylish metal can, but only works at particular angle. Scent: 6/10. Pleasant. Total: 12/20.

■ BODY SHOP Foot Spray, £2.50/100ml. Packaging: 6/10. Unfussy soft plastic bottle. Lacked alight at top. Scent: 8/10. Refreshing. Total: 14/20.

■ RALPH LAUREN, Polo Sport Woman, Finish Coolestness Body Spray, £22.50/150ml. Available nationwide. Packaging: 7/10. Stylish bottle but poor pump action and spray leaks. Scent: 5/10. Too strong for a plane. Total: 12/20.

■ DECLEOR, Arôme Floral by Decleor, £9.30/250ml (0171-262 0403). Packaging: 8/10. Simple metal canister, but 250ml is too large for a travel bag. Scent: 6/10. Slightly too floral. Total: 14/20.

■ ESPA Herbal Spafresh Spray, £10.95/100ml. By mail order or at Spa and treatment centres (01483 454444). Packaging: 9/10. Simple, but glass bottle could be impractical. Scent: 10/10. Light unisex fragrance combining rose and orange water, lavender, peppermint and tea tree oil. Total: 19/20.

Anything Fergie can do...



Even the Duchess of York now thinks she can be a professional

model. From this week *The Times* will be giving ordinary women the opportunity to model the latest clothes. Today Deborah Brett tries on some of the outfits she found in the sales

Towards the end of June, when the credit card is up to its limit, and the bank balance hovers between black and red, the summer sales are a tantalising prospect. They shimmer on the horizon, like an oasis in the desert. But, like water in the Sahara, the longed-for goodies may be a mirage.

Why is it that we are so often disappointed by the sales, when only a week before the rails seemed to bulge with covetable clothes?

The first thing to bear in mind is that the sales are not designed for our benefit, but to shift all remaining stock. If that means employing a little trickery then so be it.

While people in the fashion industry often offer advice, they rarely go to the sales themselves. They buy directly from designers at the start of the season, then go to exclusive sample sales, when garments worn by models on shoots are sold off at ridiculously low prices.

However, if you're streetwise, it is possible to find great outfits at good prices. The key is to apply the same discernment as you normally would, and to think the prices through.

Sue Rowe, a young designer, is one of the few industry insiders who actually goes to the sales. She has evolved what can only be described as a strategy for tackling the shops at sale time.

"As a designer, I'm always watching what everyone else is up to," she says. "I go round the shops every fortnight, and I can tell you that a lot of shops bring out old stock for the first few days. High street chains are the worst."

"My strategy is to go at the very beginning, but not necessarily to buy then. I look for things I've seen at full price, then I see if there are lots of the particular thing I want. If there are, then I wait for the price to drop. I'm really looking for 50 per cent reductions."

"I avoid shops that cram the rails. You can't see anything properly. If I'm in a high street shop then I check the labels carefully to make sure the clothes aren't damaged."

This year, Ms Rowe is looking out for the Vivienne Westwood sale and the Liberty sale, where she hopes to buy Helmut Lang. As a rule, however, she avoids in-store concessions. "The prices are lower in designers' own shops."

The conventional advice — which Ms Rowe also gives — is to buy basics in versatile colours like black and white. But the sales are also a good time to buy something frivolous which would seem a sin at full price. But while it's not a good idea to spend lots on vogueish colours there is no point being more even more conservative than normal.

The sales are also good for luxury items that will last. Paula Hamilton rarely goes to sales, but makes one exception: "I go to the Harrods sale for men's V-neck cashmere sweaters."

Finally, don't worry if you miss the start of the sale. Reductions are often staggered.

GRACE BRADBERRY, STYLE EDITOR



DEBORAH BRET, 23, has just left Central St Martin's College of Art. She set out to buy three outfits in the sales. Two are investment buys, the third is a frivolous outfit for high summer.

"The Paddy Campbell suit is a classic — but it's also incredibly well-cut and has a bit of twist to it. The dress is figure-hugging, but the slit is skilfully placed to make it wearable. Incidentally, it's a fantastic reduction."

"Less dressy, the Joseph trouser suit is good for similar reasons. It looks simple — but the one button and the cut make it incredibly sexy. With a hat and scarf it would work at a wedding. It's also a great work outfit."

"The zebra shirt and trousers are really a bit of fun, but they'd see you through several summer parties."

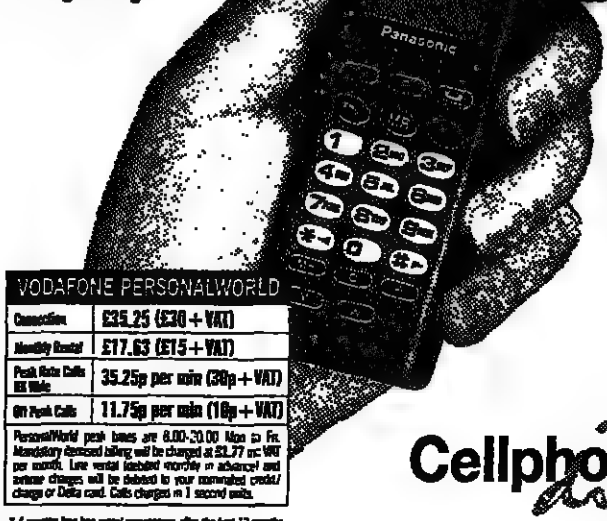
Left, ruby red single-breasted long jacket, was £375, now £189. Matching red capped-sleeve dress, was £200, now £139; both by Paddy Campbell, 8 Gee's Court, St Christopher's Place, London W1. Cream pearlised patent snafle heels by Office, were £39.99, now £25. Top, orange zebra-print velour shirt, was £39.99, now £19, by Warehouse (0171-278 3491). Black shantung capri pants by Charles Grey, were £65, now £32 at Fenwick's New Bond Street. Above, Joseph lilac wool jacket, was £235, now £164.50. Joseph lilac hipsters, were £125, now £87.50. White tank-top, was £29, now £20.30; all from Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, London, SW1. White sling-backs with black hoop detail by Larra at Office, were £130, now £80. Hair and make-up by Claire Bayley.

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SHOES

Armando Pollini, 35 Brook St, London W1. Reductions from 30% to 60% (July 4).

Manolo Blahnik, 49-51 Old Church St, SW3. Reductions from 45% (August 2).

Patrick Cox, 8 Symons Street, SW3. Initial reductions up to 40% (July 8).

Wannabe by Patrick Cox, 129 Sloane St, SW1. Up to 40% (July 8).

Pied à Terre, 31 Old Bond St, W1 and nationwide. Reductions up to 50%.

Russell & Bromley, 24-25 New Bond St, W1 and nationwide. Reductions from 30-50% (July 12).

DEPARTMENT STORES Fenwick's branches including New Bond St, W1.

Canterbury, York, Newcastle. Reductions of up to 50%.

Designers include Nicole Farhi, Jasper Conran, English Eccentrics and Georges Rech.

Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW3 (July 10). Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW3 (starts today).

House of Fraser branches including Dickens & Jones, Regent St, London, Frasers of Glasgow, Rackhams of Birmingham and Howells of Cardiff.

Liberty, Regent St, W1. Selfridges, Oxford St, W1 (July 8).

DESIGNER SHOPS Amanda Wakeley, Fulham Rd, SW3. Reductions of 30% to 50% (starts today).

Anna Molinari, 11 Old Bond St, W1. 30% reductions off everything.

Berry Jackson, 311 Brompton Rd, SW3. Initial reductions of 30% (starts today).

Browns, 23 South Molton St, W1. (Starts today). Reductions 30-50%.

Caroline Charles, 56/57 Beauchamp Pl, SW3. (Starts today). Some 50% reductions.

Catherine Walker, Sydney St, SW3, (July 10). Up to 50% reductions.

Emporio Armani, 191

SMART SALES

Brompton Rd, SW3. Current reductions of 30%.

Dolce & Gabbana, Sloane St, SW1. Reductions of 40%.

Joseph, Sloane St, SW1, and branches. Reductions from 30%.

Margaret Howell, 29 Beauchamp Pl, London SW3, and branches. (July 6). Also concessions in Liberty & Harvey Nichols. Reductions of 30-40%.

MaxMara, 32 Sloane St, SW1

(July 9). 153 New Bond St, W1. From 25-30%.

Nicole Farhi, Sloane St, SW1. (starts today). Initial reductions of 25%.

Paddy Campbell, Gee's Court, St Christopher's Pl, W1. (starts today).

Paul Smith, 40-44 Floral St, WC2. (August 1). Initial reductions of 30%, plus samples at larger reductions.

Prada, Sloane St, SW1. Reductions of 30% (50% off last season's stock).

• All sales have started unless date is shown

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Rachel Campbell-Johnston on the alimony culture

Divorce, money and great expectations

It was once said that you can never really know a woman until you have met her in court. Certainly few who witnessed the coy 20-year-old Diana darting soft-focus glances at her bridegroom prince would have guessed that our national fairytale would end with a composed 35-year-old toughly negotiating the terms of her divorce.

If the Princess of Wales gets all that she is said to be holding out for — a multi-million pound settlement as well as the retention of a royal title and a home in Kensington Palace — she will prove an inspiration to all young women who feel maltreated by the powerful, wealthy men who take trophy wives.

What her predicted settlement will prove is that the discarded woman is not necessarily defenceless but can emerge stronger — or at the least much richer — than the husband she has left behind. It is a lesson whose principles are fraught with corruption.

Of course a man should be made responsible for the woman whom he made his lawful wedded wife. Provision of adequate alimony is only to be expected and never more so than in cases where children are at issue. It is lamentable that the Child Support Agency should have been allowed to fail.

The splitting of a pension, especially when a marriage has been of long duration, seems often to be only fair. A woman should not be forced to remain locked to her former husband until the time that he chooses to retire.

But in the magic circle of the rich and famous the marriage game is played for high stakes. A wedding at this level appears little more than a necessary formality undertaken before securing the lucrative divorce. It is for the munificent alimony payments that the sweet, and seductive, set honey traps. Marriage has become big business. Girls who walk in beauty like the night are attracted like moths to the glitter of bachelor gold.

Bienvenida Buck set sail from our shores last week, evanescent as the bubbles in a glass of faux champagne. But she left a few cultured pearls of wisdom behind in her memoirs. "I realised I had two options," she candidly declared. "To work for years and years scrimping and saving, or else look for a shortcut. The only one I could envisage was to become a woman for a man who had already made a fortune, and to use that relationship to meet successful people."

A short while ago a pitiable, but extremely prosperous, acquaintance snuffed his sorrows onto my sleeve. He married a girl whom he first met in a nightclub — winsome, willowy and half his age. He never suspected that anything might be less than perfect until the first night of their Alpine honeymoon. He snored, suffering from the high altitude. She banished him to the bath to sleep and the next morning muttered darkly about divorce through a froth of toothpaste.

Well, Sheridan did write that "his safest in matrimony to begin with a little aversion," but things, according to his account, never got better. A year later she jettisoned him on a Caribbean holiday pleading fatigue. The phonecalls soon stopped and he heard nothing except from one of his wife's friends who called round to pick up her chinchilla fur. He consulted a lawyer, a personal friend, but without success. "I can't advise you," the lawyer said. "Your wife has been my client now for more than a year."

After the divorce finally went through, the girl was so opulently catered for that she never returned to her job as a secretary in an advertising agency. Marriage had merely been to her a less strenuous way of getting ahead than any long haul up the rungs of a career.

There is big money at stake in the divorce league. Predictions as to exactly how much are difficult to make. Part 2 of the 1973 Matrimonial Causes Act does not provide an objective, let alone a formula. Rather it specifies a list of matters to be taken into consideration.

In the 1980s, Amanda Jane Altar received capitalised periodical payments amounting to some £30,000 to help her adjust to being single after only seven weeks of marriage. Donatella Flick emerged an estimated £32 million richer from her marriage to the heir of Daimler-Benz. In cold financial terms, the Duchess of York's reputed £2 million settlement barely notches a mark on the "big divorce" scale.

Weddings are only the formality before divorce

Wealthy men fall constantly prey to women on the prowl who plan their seductions like a military campaign. Lady Buck was not shy of sharing the secrets of an advanced form of warfare: never wear a dress which blends with the tablecloth — if

necessary check the shade of a restaurant's napery in advance; offer a man a drink from your champagne glass, turning it beforehand so that he samples your lipstick smear — apparently it is like a little kiss. Have a spare stocking to hand sprinkled with perfume. This can be pressed at the perfect moment into your paramour's grasp.

Attention to details like these can earn a girl her penthouse, yacht and couture wardrobe. It is hard to see where the buck stops. Wise millionaires hire private investigators to research the credentials of prospective girlfriends. Others, with egos flattered, fall for lethal charms. More often than not the fine they pay for the joyride of matrimony is alimony. "Once a wife, always a wife," was at one time the paradigm set by

family law. Divorce was seen as a breach of contract, and settlements seen as a form of damages designed to put the promisee in the position she would have enjoyed had the contract been honoured. It is a good thing that it is now possible to abandon this. In 1984 a new Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act paved the way for the courts to look instead at reasonable needs.

The "reasonable needs" of the wealthy are often argued to be different from those of more ordinary families. Maya Flick declared that the upkeep of her Labrador required £4,000 a year, while the annual replenishment of her drinks cabinet amounted to £5,000. It was right that the court should have cavelled over this.

In a modern world which struggles towards equal opportunities for the sexes a woman should not be allowed to cling leech-like to her former husband throughout his life. Surely it would be better to see marriage as an equal partnership, not an unequal relationship in which each member jostles to grab whatever they can.

Katrina Dart, who was awarded £10 million after her divorce from the tycoon who made her, battled in the appeal courts for another £100 million in payout. Yesterday it was announced that she had lost her case. Her original award was considered sufficient to keep her in the style to which she was accustomed.

But afterwards England's senior woman judge, Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, suggested that the courts may be somewhat overmodest in their awards. She hinted that at some future point this would change.

At a time when the institution of matrimony is severely threatened, when one in three marriages fail, any measures which encourage those who cynically seek profit seems ill-advised.



Diana in love — who would have guessed the doe-eyed girl would become a tough legal negotiator?

He had waited 12 gruelling months for his freedom. But when it finally came via a brief message from the Home Office, Abiodun Igbinidu, a Nigerian asylum-seeker, chose to remain in his detention cell for one more night.

Mr Igbinidu, 26, an engineering student who has spent the past year pleading his case from Campsfield Detention Centre, in Oxfordshire, could have walked out of the gates

immediately after Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, did an about-turn on Monday afternoon and granted him exceptional leave to remain in Britain. Instead, he chose to remain to attend a church service in the centre early yesterday where he gave quiet thanks for his new life.



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A long march to freedom in Britain

A Nigerian asylum-seeker's victory raises doubts over new immigration laws. Carol Midgley investigates

For Mr Igbinidu's formidable army of supporters, his has been a case of crucial significance which, they say, demonstrates that genuine asylum-seekers may be slipping through the net of red tape unnoticed.

Had it not been for a series of coincidences which resulted in Douglas Hurd and four eminent physicians from Oxford University appealing to Mr Howard to reconsider the deportation of Mr Igbinidu, he would now be back in Lagos facing torture and almost certain death.

If that is so, how many other

genuine torture victims are being shipped back to Nigeria?

Mr Igbinidu arrived at Heathrow airport on June 19 last year on a Balkan Airlines flight, clutching a false passport and claiming to be an activist for the Campaign for Democracy who had demonstrated against the military regime of General Abacha.

As the proprietor of a mini-supermarket and a student at the local university, he worked to help organise demonstrations and circulate leaflets.

As soon as his face became known to the police the arrests



Igbinidu: free at last

began. Mr Igbinidu said he was imprisoned ten times and brutally tortured. His arms and legs were tied behind him, teargas was rubbed into his eyes and he was beaten on his back, arms and legs.

When fellow students ambushed the prison he managed to escape and was smuggled to freedom. But when he arrived in Britain, he ran into a problem — officials did not believe his story.

The Home Secretary refused him asylum and his application for leave to remain was rejected by the Immigration Service. He appealed, but in October the Special Adjudicator found against him. "I do not find the appellant a credible witness," she wrote. "In particular, I do not accept his account of having been arrested on various occasions and having been tortured."

Deportation was edging nearer, but Mr Igbinidu's support campaign was beginning to gather pace, with more than 40 MPs, and bishops and peers lending their weight.

Mr Igbinidu was lucky that Mr Hurd is the constituency MP of the Rev John Searle, a visitor to Campsfield, who took up his case. Mr Hurd intervened last Christmas, so that the first deportation date was stayed.

Bill Bernister, an investigative journalist, uncovered documentation from Nigeria appearing to back up his story. Mr Bernister was in contact with Sir Richard Doll, Emeritus Professor of Medicine at Oxford and a patron of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, who arranged for Mr Igbinidu to be examined first by Dr Michael Hobbs, a psychiatrist and consultant psychotherapist at Oxford, and then by Christopher Bulstrode, Clinical Reader in Trauma and Orthopaedics at Oxford and consultant surgeon at the John Radcliffe Hospital. All agreed that Mr Igbinidu was telling the truth.

Baroness Williams, the former Shirley Williams, raised his case in the House of Lords to press for an amendment to the Government's new Immigration and Asylum Bill.

Crucially, the Oxford physicians went public — voicing their concern in a letter to *The Times* last month. They wrote that it had only been through a fortunate meeting between medical and journalistic interests that the evidence for this case was produced.

Unlike most the 5,825 Nigerians who came to Britain

at the home of Velda Henman, the Church Council Secretary, where Mr Igbinidu will stay for a while.

Yesterday Mr Igbinidu, a Roman Catholic, said: "They have given me my life. I would have been dead if I had been deported."

Whether Mr Igbinidu's case will alter the fate of other Nigerian asylum-seekers remains to be seen. Last year the refusal rate for them was 100 per cent.

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Early Learning Centre

Reform, not revolution, in the Lords

Tories cannot ignore Opposition plans, says Robert Skidelsky

There is a strong possibility that the House of Lords will cease to exist in its present form after the next general election. Both main Opposition parties propose sweeping changes in its composition. The Liberal Democrats want to replace the Lords by a wholly or largely elected second chamber. The Labour Party's long-term plans are less clear. But as a first step, Labour would abolish the right of hereditary peers to sit in the Lords.

The silence of the Conservatives in the face of these Opposition plans is deafening. The party which exists to defend the constitution offers no explicit defence of the House of Lords as it now is: not does it propose any alternative scheme of reform. By their silence, Conservatives give the impression that they have lost the argument before it has started. Yet there is a Conservative tradition which can be applied to the Lords, based on three principles: it is wrong to destroy what works for the sake of abstract principle; it is right to redress justified and widely held grievances; and reform should build on precedent.

Consider first the arguments for reform based on abstract right. It is wrong in principle, it is said, that anyone should sit in Parliament solely by accident of birth. The short answer to this is that the "accident of birth" is also the accident of history. The Conservative approach is not to sweep away historical survivals in the name of Reason, but to ask: does the constitution of which the hereditary peers form a part work well or badly? The Opposition parties argue that it is wrong in principle for unelected persons — whether hereditary or life peers — to have a say in the making of laws. Conservatives should ask: is there anything in our constitution which allows unelected legislators to thwart the will of elected representatives? The answer is clearly "no", since the veto power of the Lords was abolished in 1911. The House of Lords lacks the inclination, as well as the power, to overturn "mandated" legislation. Its functions of revision — plus a reserve power of one year's delay, last exercised in 1949 — are useful, not obstructive.

In short, Conservatives should fight on Burke's grounds of tradition, convenience and expediency. They should not allow the Opposition to get away with the assertion that the present system is "obviously" indefensible, but should force them to argue for the reforms they actually propose.

Two such arguments are worth attention. The first is put forward by those who want a stronger second chamber to counter the "elective dictatorship" of the House of Commons, and claim that only an elected second chamber could legitimately demand extra powers. There are three things wrong with this. First, upper Houses, whether elected or not, are always subordinate to lower Houses, except in the special case of federal constitutions, where they serve to defend "states' rights" against central government. We do not have a federal

constitution. Secondly, there is no evidence that the House of Lords is widely regarded as illegitimate. There is plenty of evidence of the low esteem in which elected politicians are held. Finally, it is at least paradoxical to believe that a reform which is bound to strengthen party control over Parliament would increase the second chamber's independence. Surely it is the relative freedom of the House of Lords from party, which preserves it from being the mere rubber stamp of governments.

The nub of the practical argument for reform is that the House of Lords is dominated by the Conservatives. It is not the hereditary principle as such which has triggered the demand for reform.

There is some evidence that the House of Lords is keener to facilitate the business of Conservative than of Labour governments. The Labour Government suffered 335 defeats in the Lords between 1974 and 1979, as opposed to 136 defeats suffered by the Tories between 1979 and 1990. Also, there was resentment at the way the Government "whipped in" their backbenchers to enact the poll tax in 1989; and at its failure to replenish the Opposition life peers.

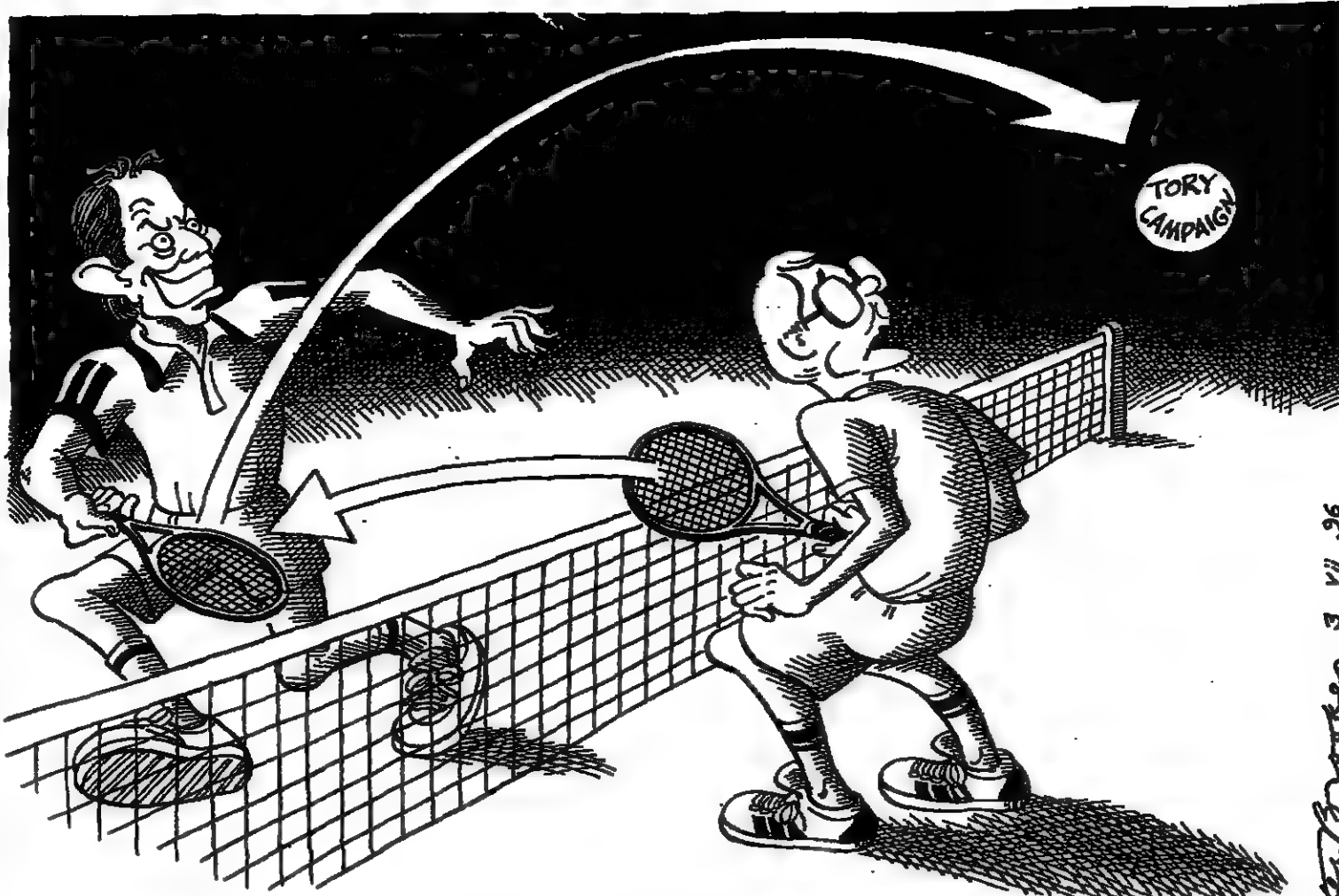
If all hereditary peers were removed from the Lords, the Conservatives, with 140 life peers, would be a clear minority in a House of 422. If the problem is the existence of a "surplus" of Conservative peers, the solution is to eliminate the surplus, not to abolish the right of hereditary peers to sit in the Lords. This can be done by reducing the number of hereditary Conservative peers and increasing the number of Labour and Liberal Democrat life peers.

A reduction of Conservative numbers could be effected by Conservative hereditary peers electing a proportion of their numbers. There is a good precedent for such a representative peerage. Till 1963, the Scottish peers had the right to elect 16 of their number (from a qualified electorate of 76) to represent them in the Lords for the duration of each Parliament, with by-elections held to fill vacancies as they occurred.

There are many possible variations of this plan, and some snags. But if, say, 100 Conservative hereditaries were elected (out of a present total of 466), with existing Labour, Liberal Democrat and crossbench hereditaries remaining, and an extra 64 Opposition life peers created, there would be a rough balance between the Tories and the two other parties.

A solution on these lines would remove the constitutional imbalance. It would weaken the charge that the hereditary peers sat solely by accident of birth. It would achieve these aims with least disruption — in fact, by building on sound precedents, it would give the Conservatives an active, not just passive, response to the Opposition's plans. Above all, it would be a sensible, and long overdue, contribution by peers to the determination of their fate.

Lord Skidelsky is a Conservative life peer.



NEW LOBBY, NEW DANGER

No mirror for ministers

Most statesmen used to treat the press with disdain. Mr Hurd still does — but Mr Major is mesmerised

Good man, Douglas Hurd. Sort of chap you would go into a cocktail party with. They say he can drop an ambassador stone dead at 20 paces. But when the time comes to hang up the frock-coat and send the spats round to Oxford, how does he depart? Some ministers give farewell speeches in the Commons, brimming with eloquence and bitterness. Some unburden themselves to the Sunday papers. Some write instant memoirs. What is Mr Hurd's Partisan shot? How does he surprise us?

I should have guessed: a talk on the wireless. A few amusing vignettes for the housewives at 8.40am. How very cucumber sandwich. How very PO. Mr Hurd's series ended on Monday. It has been a delight, a reminder of how good BBC Radio was as it prepares to vanish into the crass maw of television. But where was the sting? "I have decided," said Mr Hurd, "not to write my memoirs at least for a year or two." So what was all this about? Norman Lamont produced "a government in office but not in power". Lord Howe of Aberavon savaged his old leader with a metaphor about batsmen and pads. Surely Mr Hurd would not desert John Major's second-rate Oppidians without a parting kick to its shins?

And there it was. After an erudite passage on Lord Derby, Mr Hurd mused on why today's statesmen are so busy, when their real responsibilities are less. His answer was a jolt media addition. As compared with the old days, he said, ministers spend an inordinate amount of time worrying at the press. He implied that this was undignified and absurd. "Ministers fret about the media," said Mr Hurd. "A huge amount of time is given to the fretting. The Cabinet may no longer have to worry itself about India, but it worries itself sick about the Daily Mail."

Who is fretter-in-chief? In goes the knife. "John Major by nature wakes up rather earlier than I do," Mr Hurd opines as if referring to his groom. "It was not unusual to be roused by him denouncing some enormity in a newspaper I had not yet read." It even happened once "when I was snoozing in a remote cottage in Devon". We can sense the rage in the Hurd household. A bell rings in some distant parlour. Jeeves carries the telephone upstairs on a silver tray. The Foreign Secretary in his four-poster is clearly roused from dreams of tiger shooting and Catullus. "Terribly sorry, sir. The Prime Minister on

the line. He's worried about a story in the Daily Scum." Was it for this that the House of Hurd dedicated a life's service to Her Britannic Majesty?

The passage was a deft mix of social condescension and the anger felt by many ministers at Mr Major's servility to the press. After a decade in high office, certain newspapers (notably *The Sun*, the *Mail* and the *Telegraph*) still seem to mesmerise him — and as a result his less secure colleagues. He reads them night and morning. He personally calls their Editors, not to inform or discuss but to complain and even to plead. Why are you so horrid to me, he asks.

Most statesmen until recently treated journalists with disdain, leaving them to be entertained in the pub by press officers. When newspaper barons tried hamfistedly to usurp political privilege they did not win. Baldwin trounced Beaverbrook and Rothermere. Wilson trounced Cecil King. The best antidote to a surfeit of newspaper comment is to stop consuming it. Roy Jenkins had his secretary cut references to him from the newspapers, put them in a file and show him only those still worth reading a week later, which was not many. Baroness Thatcher rarely read the papers. If they attacked her she blamed her press secretary: "Poor Bernard has been having a terrible time lately."

Mr Major has become an actor obsessed with his notices. Every morning a Cabinet committee meets on how to counter the distortions and every minister must dance attendance.

Cabinet ministers have become de facto press rooms, seeking photo-opportunities, press briefings and interviews hour by hour.

All governments must worry about their public face. News is a commodity and its dissemination requires handling. Newspapers set a sort of instant agenda. The competitive and raucous British press may be the embodiment of chaos theory but, as in the theory, it has "strange attractors". Politicians may believe that journalists are immune to the truth, but the same politicians seem to believe that the press is susceptible to the well-turned half-truth.

Hence the current spate of half-baked "initiatives" pouring out of departments such as Education, the Home Office and Environment. I believe government is a victim of a confusion. On the one hand, the press is indeed a medium for passing the Government's message to the electorate. It should be one of many, but newspapers happen to be the one that politicians read. On the other hand, the press is seen as an independent estate of the political realm. It hears evidence, forms judgments and passes sentences. As such it has the opportunity and privilege both to pass on the news and to doctor it. In Bernard Ingham's celebrated phrase, the press can be both sewer and sewage.

The power of the press in the life of politicians is in direct proportion to its monopoly as this sort of confused democratic conduit. That monopoly has strengthened under John Major. What de Tocqueville called the intermediate institutions of democracy have atrophied. The means by which voters once interacted with government, primarily through unions, professional groups and local government, have been eroded. There is scant mechanism for feedback. This is not just a Tory phenomenon. Tony Blair is sweeping aside the traditional means by which a Labour leader

gained consent from his followers. He too is relying on the media. While this works, it works a dream. Who needs the National Executive Committee or the Labour Party conference when you have *The Independent* and *The Guardian* eating out of your hand? Spin-doctor them and the game is in the bag.

Mr Major's experience is that this simply does not work. He has so weakened the Conservative Party in the country — 90 per cent of its activity once focused on local government — as to lose the benefit of its one-time status as a democratic intermediary. He has lost a political buffer zone. When he appeals to the public to receive his message there is no reply, just the dull thud of an opinion poll on the mat.

Critics do not make a play, nor do newspapers win elections. Though the evidence cannot be more than anecdotal, I believe that politicians grossly overrate the influence of the national press in influencing the public's long-term view of politics. The electorate is influenced by what they see, hear and read in the workplace, the school and hospital and in their dealings with government at grass roots. They regard national politics, like Parliament, as a fantasy theatre, a place of synthetic quarrels and cheap point-scoring.

British politicians, unlike their continental or American counterparts, move in ever-decreasing circles. As Mr Hurd remarked in his talk, ministers rarely go to the cinema or theatre. They seldom read outside their subject and have little time for listening and talking to friends, or for private thought. They do not take buses or go shopping. Small wonder the press becomes their sole window on the world, poking its daily report through the bars of their prison cage. They know that the press cannot be terrified with a three-line whip, a sacking or a slashed grant. The press is not part of that leviathan of control, the standardised, cash-limited welfare state. It is random, unfair, malicious, but maddeningly independent. Modern politics has come to treat it as monopoly surrogate for public opinion, a daily consultant's report on the dealings of government.

It is a monopoly for which newspapers are grossly unsuited. I cannot imagine a worse mirror before which to shave my face each morning. Yet it is the one selected by Mr Major and, it seems, by Mr Blair. Mr Hurd is right to be dismayed.

Simon Jenkins

Alan Coren



Have you been goosed at four in the morning?

It would be stretching musicology a bit to describe what Cricklewood has as a dawn chorus. It is more of a dawn busk. Each summer day, just as morning brings an arm back to fling its stone into the Bowl of Light, an ad hoc avian glee club convenes in the sparse urban greenery around my premises and launches into sporadic spasms of whistle and squawk, most of them atonal, and none of them loud enough to disturb even the lightest human sleeper. That I know about our early birds at all is only because I have on occasion been woken by something else, such as a clunking radiator, and caught, above its plangent bong, a beaky descant from beyond the sash.

Until, that is, yesterday: when, at 4am, I was torn from sleep by what could only be the blast of a car-horn: doubtless some selfish road hurling past and loosing one off to feed his joy upon another's pain. But after I'd fallen back onto the pillow, it honked again, same volume, so it wasn't hurting past at all, it was standing somewhere and leaving me to lie wondering whether to get up and vent a throatful of spleen upon whoever in the street out front was doing it — impatient eloper, nervous getaway driver, 24-hour hooter mechanic, whatever — until it honked a third time, and I realised it wasn't happening in the street but from the rear of the house. There was a car in the back garden. Someone, somehow, must have crashed through the fence, trapping himself behind the wheel, and was now attempting to alert the emergency services by the only means available to him.

And that, indeed, after I had creaked up, hobbled through to the back of the house, and peered out, was — thanks to the half-darkness and the sleep-gummed eye — what I very nearly saw. There was an object on the lawn which might well have been some small foreign job, except that where its wheels should have been were — I could just make out — two webbed feet. A small experimental foreign job, perhaps? A little amphibious Japanese number, being secretly tested under cover of British night? But, as I watched, the vehicle uncoiled its neck, threw back its head, and honked again.

It is somewhat unsettling not only to find an enormous goose on your darling lawn, but to find it honking: because at 4am the only thing you can remember about honking geese is that they alerted Rome to invading Gauls, and though you do not, even half-awake, immediately conclude that a raiding party of vengeful French catmen is about to sack Cricklewood and make off with its women, you nonetheless cannot help wondering whether some more conventional scallywag might not have breached your defences and even now be going through your spoons.

Downstairs, however, I found all secure. So I went out into the garden to tell the dawn soloist to put a sock in it because some of us were trying to get some sleep. But when I approached, waving my arms, instead of retreating, waving its wings, the goose began waddling towards me, giving off a low staccato warbling, as if accompanying itself on a muted bugle. Now, if one of the things you can't remember about geese at 4am is whether they can break a man's arm with a flick of a wing, or is that swans, you back off; and when I did, the goose lurched past me, hopped up the step and went into the kitchen.

I did not want a goose in my kitchen. Then again, I did not want my arm in plaster. So I did what any coward would do: I made a deal. I took a slice of bread from the fridge, waggled it at the goose, and went back into the garden. Whither it followed me and, passing up the opportunity to break my arm, plucked the slice deftly from my hand, and ate it. And guess what it did then? It put its head on my knee, and let out a low, singularly gentle, honk. I did not know what this meant. I do not have fluent Goose, but I have to tell you that, as experiences go, it was a bit special. So special, indeed, that I rather believe it has changed my life.

Which is why I have told you this tiny tale: because what we weekly share, you and I, is me, and if my life is changed, you have the right to know. And what you should know today is that I shall never eat *pâté de foie gras* again. Especially not to the sound of trumpets.

Off his tree

TENNIS court-sized offices and mane-tossing would never be enough for Michael Heseltine. Talking to trees is also essential to his wellbeing.

For the first time, the Deputy Prime Minister has admitted that he chats to the trees in the beloved arboretum at his Northamptonshire country home.

His confession appears in this month's *Business Life* magazine: "I totally sympathise with Prince

Charles and his relationship with trees," he says. "You have to encourage them. Tell them to pull themselves together."

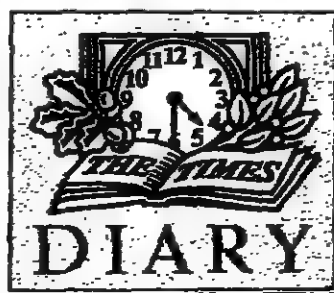
Heseltine knows that his trees, far more than his political career, are his best bet for immortality. At the heart of his collection are what he calls one of the most majestic of British trees, the beech. His gardening ambitions have clearly come a long way since as a boy his grubby hands noddled around his father's flowerbeds.

Unlike his relationships with his fellow politicians and journalists on Radio 4's *Today* programme, he says: "The relationship between me and my trees is very clear. I'm the only one who does the talking."

Dr Dorothy Rowe, the psychologist and author, is delighted by the news: "It's about the most human thing I have heard about him. The rest is all presentation."

Up the creek

OARS clashed at Henley yesterday as our greatest rowers turned up at their boathouse to find the locks had been changed. Steve Redgrave



and Matthew Pinsent, the world and Olympic champions, were home for two days in between training for another Olympic title. "Every year we change the combination because we have lost so much stuff," Ivor Lloyd, the Leander captain, said. "Normally, Matthew is responsible for the change, but this year we beat him to it. They couldn't get in to shower or change and were more than a little irritated."

Redgrave, despite having won 15 times at Henley, is clearly not a forgiving type. Missing the old regatta? he was asked. Jiggling oar in rowlock, he replied "No", flexed a swede-sized muscle and eased off into the spume.

● Sir George Gardiner's Reigate constituency party — a member of which suggested that he be deselected for being too ugly — has been given an award by Martini for trying to make Britain a more beautiful place. Martini's ad campaign suggests ugly people have plastic surgery to be beautiful enough to drink it.

Swing vote

AS RUSSIANS go to the polls to elect a President today, trapezes will hang motionless and unicycles lie discarded in one corner of Watford. The Moscow State Circus has scrapped rehearsals for the day and erected a polling booth in the ring so that 40 members of the troupe can cast votes in the second round of the elections back home.

"Officials from the Russian Embassy are coming up with a ballot box," Chris Barron, the ringmaster, said. "We were in Lincoln during the first round which was too far, so it couldn't be fixed up."

Watered down

LIKE the Queen and the Prince of Wales, the Three Tenors have been forbidden from flying together on their world tour. At the insistence

of their insurance companies, Pavarotti, Domingo and Carreras must charter individual planes. This Saturday, they sing at Wembley before flying on to complete their 12 dates around the world. Among their other tour requirements is grosso, it piccolo and ven in-between are accompanied by their own catering company and a caravan of interior designers to smarten up their dressing rooms. Their promoter says, however, that they cost less than pop stars, "because after their performances, they only drink mineral water."

Love all

WHILE Tim Henman has set female pulses racing at Wimbledon, Belgian men are blubbing into their beer tankards. Their heroine, Sabine Appelmans, 24, beaten by Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, has just been voted the world's "ideal woman" by a Belgian magazine. Sabine's accolade comes from one of her country's bestsellers, which rates her higher than Claudia Schiffer and Pamela Anderson, as she became the first Belgian to reach the fourth round at Wimbledon since 1975.

● They may be bestest of friends again, but the Duchess of York's

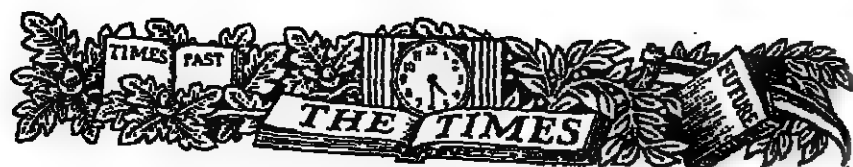


Belgian belle: Appelmans

leggy appearance on the cover of *Helix* magazine is clearly a challenge to the Princess of Wales. Though she only flashes up to the knee, not the dangerous cellulite territory of the upper thigh, the display brings to mind the Duchess's regular padmas of the Princess when the two were going through a rocky patch. Red hair, tanning and leg showing, she would crow: "I've got better legs."

P.H.S

سكنى من الامم



OPEN COURTS

Legal aid proposals should improve justice for the deserving

Squaring circles has become the Lord Chancellor's stock in trade. With his family law reforms he sought simultaneously to strengthen marriage and simplify divorce. With the White Paper on legal aid, *Striking the Balance*, Lord Mackay of Clashfern is trying both to control the amount spent while also improving access to justice.

The reforms that Lord Mackay proposes would see the public provision of legal services undergo an upheaval on a similar scale to the changes wrought in the National Health Service. As with those changes, it is possible that Lord Mackay may be able to improve the quality of some services and make measurable efficiency gains but he may also see an unwelcome growth in bureaucracy. The amount spent on legal aid has increased, is increasing and has to be diminished. In 1995-96 it swallowed some £1.4 billion of taxpayers' money, twice as much as five years ago.

The expansion of the current system has been driven by lawyers and this Government's own actions, not least the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. But the situation has been made worse by the opportunism of litigants whose cases have been, in the words of Lord Mackay, "weak, trivial and undeserving". In consequence, access to law for the deserving has been squeezed. Eligibility for legal aid extended to 70 per cent of households in the early 1980s. Only 50 per cent can be covered now.

The overhaul that Lord Mackay proposes is radical. The Government will fix a limit on the amount spent and devolve responsibility for purchasing to the Legal Aid Board, advised by regional legal services committees. The providers of help in resolving disputes will still tend to be solicitors and barristers in private practice, but in a welcome move away from reliance on costly professionals the necessary services could also be supplied by advice agencies, "paralegals" and mediators. There will be proper

suspicion at the concentration of powers in the hands of officials of the Legal Aid Board: but if the system sees the courts less busy, and the mediators more busy, it may be a price worth paying.

The most welcome changes that the Lord Chancellor proposes are the attempts to limit the bringing of unsuitable cases. In civil and family cases there will be more detailed scrutiny of financial eligibility. A minimum contribution will be demanded from all litigants and those who can afford it will be expected to bear a larger cost of the action. No one offered aid will risk penalty pursuing their case, but a clearer recognition of the burden to be borne should give rasher litigants pause for thought.

Moreover, the capacity of the Legal Aid Board to assess how deserving, and not just how winnable, a case might be should make it easier to prevent opportunists, sometimes from other jurisdictions, pursuing inappropriate cases at the taxpayers' expense. The ease with which a former adviser to Saddam Hussein ran through £4 million in legal aid and a German citizen cost £500,000 in a dispute over the invention of the Sony Walkman have lowered the reputation of the legal system in public eyes. It is to be hoped that Lord Mackay's reforms will see all such abuses ended.

There is one other injustice, less advertised but almost more grievous, which these reforms attempt to tackle. Defendants pursued by those on legal aid who are not themselves aided have, in the past, found themselves running up costs they can barely afford while the plaintiff pursues his case at the State's expense. In future, unaided defendants who are awarded costs but find that a poor plaintiff cannot pay will be more likely to avoid a descent into hardship because their costs may more easily be recovered from the Legal Aid Board. Avoidable miseries could be alleviated — the purpose of all good government.

BACK FOR BUCHANAN

The American presidency needs a united Republican party

Sir James Goldsmith plays host in London today to Patrick Buchanan whose victory in February's New Hampshire primary stunned American politics. The visitor's affection for this country runs deep. He has suggested that free trade between the United Kingdom and United States might be an attractive alternative to European monetary union. This is a generous thought. It is also a welcome break from his less welcome stance of isolationism and protectionism.

Mr Buchanan leaves behind division at home. The Republican primaries have now concluded with a convincing victory for Bob Dole. A fifth of voters, however, backed "Pichfork Pat", who still remains an active candidate and has not endorsed Mr Dole despite the certainty of that man's nomination. This has led the party establishment to hint that he will not be offered a major role at the San Diego convention and may even be prevented from addressing it. In turn some close to Buchanan have retorted that he might sit out the election or even run a hopeless but damaging independent race.

The candidate, therefore, faces a fundamental choice. He is too shrewd an analyst of American political history to conceive such a kamikaze campaign credible. He can, however, make matters very uncomfortable for the Dole camp while remaining within the party fold. He could attempt to upstage the convention in protest at his treatment. He might condemn the choice of vice-presidential running-mate. Or he may lead efforts to maintain an absolutist stance on abortion. Should he pursue such ideological purity in this manner he would severely impede Mr Dole's chances.

There is an alternative scenario available. Mr Buchanan could choose to campaign fully for his party. His impressive presentation skills would help to unify Republicans behind Mr Dole. He has already demonstrated his ability to reach beyond party lines and appeal to "Reagan Democrats" on the basis of social conservatism. He would be especially effective in the four key Midwestern states of Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin, whose 72 electoral votes will probably decide the November contest. This heavily Roman Catholic territory was Mr Buchanan's best terrain during the primary season.

Short-term squabbling should not be allowed to distort what that decision must be. Mr Buchanan knows that there are substantial and important distinctions in policy between Mr Clinton and Mr Dole. No conservative could be uncertain about the choice between them. This election could produce stable Republican control over both White House and Congress for the first time since the 1920s. As one who has worked with two occupants of the Oval Office, Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan, he cannot be satisfied with the sad slide of the presidency as an institution during the Clinton tenure.

Mr Buchanan knows well Mr Reagan's Eleventh Commandment: Thou Shalt Not Speak Ill Of Fellow Republicans. If on his return to the United States he were to stand down his troops and declare for Mr Dole, the Republican Party ought to pay due respect to his sizeable slice of the primary vote. If united, Republicans still have time to overcome a scandal-ridden President and an intellectually exhausted Democratic Party.

NEW JEEVES, NEW DANGERS

Or what Tony told his man after the big opening night

"What-ho, Jeeves," I croaked. "These theatrical first nights are a bit of a trial, what with the enthusiastic sluicing and cheery commentaries from hellhounds hoping for the worst. The old bean still throbs as though it has been the ball in a penalty shoot-out."

Jeeves shimmered in comfortably with his foaming glass of patent restorative and the morning papers. "We shall have to read what the critics and the gentleman from *The Times* have to say, sir. But, if I may be permitted to make an observation, I thought that this latest attempt to boost your career in a dramatic performance was a substantial improvement on its original version of 20 years ago. The dialogue was, how shall I say, more up to the minute. The content seemed so much more feathery — almost no baggage at all. As for the numbers, they were delightfully light and unlaboured. I hardly noticed that they were there at all. It was all so persuasively New."

"Yes, Jeeves. But I would much rather that you would not remind me of *Old Jeeves* at all. That was to have been our big hit. The script, by Callaghan and Wilson, was tried and tested. The tunes were by those darlings of the full house, Foot and Berni. It seemed a snap. And yet the show turned out time and time again to be a turkey and a flopparoo. Those union backers of *Old Jeeves* would have been better off ostrich farming or investing in the Channel Tunnel."

"The danger now, sir, if I may say so, is that some of the cast still prefer the old tunes. And once the first night is over, they may re-

vert to their tired old lines that failed last time. I thought that the actor playing the gentleman's gentleman missed the essential gravitas of his role. But the protagonist played as a mentally challenged gentleman was a distinct success. Especially as what Aristotle humorously describes as the catastrophe of the plot involves the hero-victim losing his banjo, to the relief of all music lovers."

"What we always needed, Jeeves, was a whatchamacallit. A day machine."

"I think you may have in mind a *deus ex machina*, sir. The convention of Greek tragedy by which a god appears to bring matters to a satisfactory conclusion. And as it happens, the country now has such a saviour. All commentators agree that the nation lacks what they call the 'feel-good' factor. The leaders of the governing party bear a remarkable similarity to characters out of your chronicles, one of them cheerful but vacuous Mr Little and the other the gentleman you unkindly describe as the Efficient Baxter, though in his case efficiency is not his most prominent characteristic. And all around them are gentlemen who ought to be members of the Drones Club, or tough eggs chucking over-ripe oranges. If all their brains were made out of silk, it would be difficult to gather sufficient material to weave cam-knickers for a canary. So *New Jeeves*, despite all those dangers, may be an act whose time has come at last."

"Jeeves," I sighed, "You are the spin-doctor who ties Bruce's spider in knots."

"We endeavour to give satisfaction, sir."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-762 5800

Selective schooling proposals in education White Paper

From Professor Richard A. Pring

Sir, Yesterday's education White Paper proposes a return to selective schooling (report and leading article, June 26). But selection presupposes, first, different educational goals for different sorts of pupils; second, the emergence of those differences between pupils at an early age; and, third, the means whereby those differences can be identified.

The tripartite system, created after the war, was based on those three premises. The Norwood report (1943) explained that there were three types of children: those who were clever with their brains (the academic), those who were clever with their hands (the technical), and the rest. And the psychometric work of Cyril Burt and his disciples in the 1930s and 40s provided the measuring instruments whereby those differences between children, pointing to the need for a different sort of education or training, might be detected.

The abandonment of selection — the abandonment of this tripartite system — arose from the realisation that those assumptions were mistaken.

First, all children, not just a few "bright" ones, need a general and liberal education in which all are introduced to the different forms of knowledge — a fundamental principle of the comprehensive system which the national curriculum has done much to enforce.

Second, all children can, in the words of Edward Boyle in 1967, "acquire intelligence" and can continue to do so through good teaching and en-

couragement; ability or aptitude is not "fixed" at the age of 11.

Third, the tests, the 11-plus examinations, although the most sophisticated tests yet devised, simply got the measurements wrong, thus mis-selecting thousands each year, even within the rather narrow bounds of intelligence which then prevailed.

But at least those who then supported selective schooling were honest. They did believe that, beneath all the apparent individual differences, there were three types of children, that these differences were innate and largely unalterable, and that they could be measured quite objectively, unaffected by social privilege.

The proposals of the White Paper reflect none of this honesty, only the discredited assumptions. To that extent, they may prove popular with the few who, not having to risk their children's desecration through the old 11-plus (a flawed test, maybe, but one as impartial as could be), will benefit from selection on the basis of interview.

But surely influence and the capacity of parents to manipulate the growing market in education, encouraged by this White Paper, are not the way in which this country might one day provide a suitable education for all children, irrespective of background. Very quickly parents will see this.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD PRING,
University of Oxford,
Department of Educational Studies,
15 Norham Gardens, Oxford.
June 26.

MoD housing sale

From Mr Julian Brazier, MP for Canterbury (Conservative)

Sir, Your leading article today suggests that opponents of the Government's proposal for the sale of MoD housing are opposed to selling surplus estates and against the principle of bringing in the private sector. In fact, our early day motion calls explicitly for the immediate sale of surplus estates and, as one of its organisers, I first outlined a proposal for privatising MoD's married quarters five years ago.

This proposal, however, is a very poor deal for service families and the taxpayer. Developers can cream off the best estates through site exchanges, an arbitrator, not the MoD, decides whether or not "exchange criteria" have been met. How much will the MoD spend on QCs to fight exchange applications by the developer, which can be appealed on points of law?

While the MoD refuses to publish its case-by-case definition of the individual sites, it is meaningless to say that estates will not be broken up. Yet the cohesion of these is the bedrock of family morale while service personnel are away serving Britain for long periods in Bosnia, Ulster and elsewhere.

As civil servants will continue to manage the properties, this proposal is a sale and leaseback, not a true privatisation bringing in any private-sector skills. MoD ministers have refused to modify their proposal in any substantial way after representations from service welfare organisations, ex-chiefs of staff and some of their own colleagues. They should sell the surplus now and consult the Armed Forces at unit level to meet their concerns and get a square deal for the taxpayer.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN BRAZIER,
House of Commons.
July 2.

Legend debunked

From Dr I. A. Olson

Sir, Your otherwise astute leading article (June 22; also letter July 1) failed to notice that Sir Walter Scott cheerfully invented *England's* popular history as well as Scotland's.

Pinching the old folk-story of the persistent spider for his hagiography of the Bruce was nothing to a man who could, for example, single a cruel, ruthless, perverted and absentee Angevin monarch into the "Good King Richard the Lionheart" we know and love (with Robin Hood thrown into the bargain).

Yours faithfully,
IAN OLSON,
20 Burns Road, Aberdeen.
July 2.

Colomberie House

From Professor F. Fielden

Sir, It must appear arrogant to question the opinions of Ms Margaret Richardson, Curator of the Sir John Soane's Museum, over the attribution of Colomberie House, Jersey, to Sir John Soane. Nevertheless her letter of June 24 must not pass unchallenged, and in particular her statement that "virtually all Soane's proposed improvements were carried out and still survive".

The matter of Soane and Colomberie House arose in 1989, when a letter to the Island Development Committee made the astonishing statement that "It has been proved beyond doubt that this is a building designed by Sir John Soane." Clearly, if such a statement were true the status of this modest Georgian house would have to be reassessed.

This was why Coopers & Lybrand

Flying bishops

From the Archdeacon of York

Sir, As the two "intelligences" in the Church of England, for and against the ordination of women, are finding ways to co-exist in harmony, it is desperately sad that the Reverend Jean Mayland (letter, June 25) should not only seek to raise the temperature but to do so by resurrecting discredited arguments and employing emotive words like "heresy".

What is more serious is that she writes from the offices of the Council for Churches for Britain and Ireland. Such an intervention on the manner in which a member church conducts its internal affairs is totally improper and calls into question both the commitment to unity and the impartiality for which the CCBI is supposed to stand.

While I am aware that Ms Mayland relishes her role as an asp on the bosom of Mother Church, she should by now have become aware that the time for bitter polemics has gone, and that nothing but hurt can come from attempting to poison the harmony which the rest of us seek.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE AUSTIN,
7 Lang Road,
Bishopthorpe, York.
June 26.

From Mrs Caroline Richmond

Sir, I can sympathise with the Reverend Jean Mayland and others like her who feel that the Church of England, in appointing "flying" bishops, is giving its members the chance to deny the priesthood of women.

MAFF inconsistency

From Mr Christopher Jackson

Sir, As Peter Riddell rightly pointed out in his column on June 25, and as the Prime Minister has made clear today, it is plain wrong to blame Douglas Hogg for the beef crisis. However, no one who has looked at the history of MAFF lacking BSE over the years can feel all that well.

The combination in one ministry of Civil Service responsibility for health matters on the one hand and market support/guidance on the other is no longer supportable in terms of public interest, however able the individuals concerned.

I hope the Prime Minister and Douglas Hogg will note the good points of the American FDA (Food and Drug Administration) and wield the scalpel accordingly.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER JACKSON,
(Chairman, National Agriculture and Countryside Forum),
8 Wellmeade Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent.
June 27.

approached me to give an opinion. I

must stress that such an opinion was not concerned with the architectural merits of the building, but solely with the influence of Soane upon it. This I did, visiting the building and studying the documentary evidence.

The definitive work on Soane, *The Architecture of Sir John Soane*, by Dorothy Stroud, mentions Colomberie House only in the appendix list of works, where it records "Jersey, Channel Islands. Clement Hemery [owner of Colomberie House]. Design for remodelling, probably not executed."

Certainly in 1810, Hemery sent survey drawings of the house to Soane,

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Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-762 5046.

From Sir Rhodes Boyson, MP for Brent North (Conservative)

Sir, I read with interest Simon Jenkins's article of June 26. "Major's last hurrah: the 11-plus".

To me Mrs Shephard's White Paper represents the end of a secondary comprehensive system which has put Britain one year behind the Europeans and two years behind the Far East in educational standards.

The White Paper recommends a wide diversity of approach and I hope that a secondary school system will evolve in Britain which educates all children according to their abilities, in well-disciplined schools, which also expect the amount of parental support which is taken for granted in the Far East.

I have the honour to remain, your obedient servant,
RHODES BOYSON,
House of Commons.
June 27.

From Mrs P. H. Tull

Sir, If there must be separate schools and extra funding to raise the standards of one small section of 11 to 16-year-olds, surely it should be for those children who need it the most — the less able and the most socially disadvantaged.

However, that wouldn't be a vote-catcher.

Yours faithfully,
PAM TULL,
10 Careys Cottages,
Brockenhurst, Hampshire.
June 25.

But surely the distinction between a prejudice against black priests and a prejudice against women priests is that there have been black priests from the beginning of church history, and, as far as we can ascertain, there have never been women priests before the 20th century.

Flying bishops may be an aberration, but for me the novelty, in the history of the Church, of trying to accommodate those with whom you disagree rather than expelling them is almost as exciting as the novelty of women priests.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE RICHMOND,
Repton House,
Lea, Mallock, Derbyshire.
June 26.

From the Reverend David Dale

Sir, The Reverend Jean Mayland has got it wrong, I am afraid. The General Synod can propose. It is the universal Church which disposes.

In 1988 the bishops declared that until the decision to ordain women to the priesthood was accepted by the whole of the Church of England, the whole of the Anglican Communion and the universal Church it could not be deemed to be the mind of Christ for His Church (para 177, 1988 report).

None of those conditions has yet been met. It seems hard to call heretic those who resist a move which their fathers in God tell them is not the mind of Christ for His Church.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID DALE,
All Saints' Vicarage,
Ryde, Isle of Wight.
June 26.

The Wallace Collection

From Mr Syd Caplan

Sir, While wholeheartedly sharing the sentiments of Lady Christy Phillips (letter, June 24) towards the Wallace Collection, one must be very wary of asking for too much "government support" for this unique collection and its setting. There are too few authentic museums left in Britain, the Pitt Rivers and the Wallace Collection being the two outstanding examples. Let us strive to keep them out of the hands and influence of the so-called "Heritage" industry.

Rather than risk turning Hertford House into a sanitised interpretation centre, with the items on display limited to, say, 5 per cent of the collection (and risk losing those unique basement conveniences), let us find other ways of supporting the collection and the building.

Yours faithfully,
SYD CAPLAN,
Oakhurst,
19 Stanley Road, Criccieth, Gwynedd.
July 1.

who prepared an ambitious scheme of

refurbishment. But this was not carried out: one can imagine Hemery's shock at the scale of change proposed and one can see him calling in a local man for something simpler and cheaper.

I said in 1992, at a public inquiry at which all the drawings, the survey of 1800, Soane's proposals and the survey of the existing building were studied in great detail, that Soane would have been horrified if the resulting work had been attributed to him; and in his summing up the judge in the Royal Court of Jersey stated quite clearly: "We find after anxious consideration of all the evidence that this is not a house which can be credited to Sir John Soane."

Yours faithfully,
F. FIELDEN,
28 Caledonian Road,
Chichester, West Sussex.
June 28.

Cash plea to win Becket's casket

From Mrs Jane Gordon Clark

Sir, I cannot begin to match the eloquence with which you have argued (leading articles, June 28; July 1) the case for making every effort to retain the Becket casket in Britain. Your extensive coverage (see letters, June 20, 26, 29; July 2) has highlighted the power this evocative object still possesses to capture the imagination.

As a practical, albeit modest contribution, the Friends of the V&A are pledging £25,000 towards the chase, but more than ten times that amount is needed. The Heritage Lottery Fund appears to be willing to make a very substantial grant towards its acquisition, but this has to be matched by funding of 25 per cent from other sources. The Victoria and Albert Museum does not have these funds available. More help is urgently needed.

Yours sincerely,
JANE GORDON CLARK
(Chairman),
Friends of the V&A,
The Victoria and Albert Museum,
South Kensington, SW7.
July 2.

From Mr Jeremy Howard

Sir, I agree with some of Simon Jenkins's observations ("Great art knows no borders", June 29) but the campaign to save the Becket casket cannot fairly be described as "toff chauvinism".

First, the Becket casket is hardly a "toff" heritage object; indeed there can be few works of art more popular in their original conception than this object of mass veneration.

Secondly, Mr Jenkins tells us that "The Becket casket is not British. The French made it". The same could be said of Canterbury Cathedral or the Wilton Diptych.

Thirdly, how relevant should the recent collecting history of an object be in determining whether it is part of our heritage? In law the position is clear: the casket was imported within the last 50 years and therefore can legally be exported.

But although the Becket casket has, in modern times, only been in this country since 1979, it is arguably, in terms of its original conception, more closely connected with our history and national life (to paraphrase the first Waverley criterion) than, say, the Rokeby Venus or Titian's *Death of Actaeon*. It all depends on your definition of the national heritage.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY HOWARD
(Lecturer in History of Art and Heritage Management),
The University of Buckingham,
Buckingham, MK18 1EG.
July 2.

From the Master of the Mercers' Company

Sir, You refer to Thomas à Becket as "low born" (leading article, July 1). The old chestnut of the poor citizen of London made good keeps on cropping up, but cannot be applied to Thomas.

His father, of Norman land-owning stock, belonged to the merchant class and owned a house in Cheapside, where Thomas was born. The site became a monastery venerated until the Dissolution as his birthplace.

It is now the site of our hall, and a replica of a pilgrim's badge may be seen at one corner of the present building.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM CLARKE,
Master,
The Worshipful Company of Mercers,
Mercers' Hall,
Ironmonger Lane, EC2.
July 2.

Roseclear ban

From Mr P. A. Ring

Sir, My box of Roseclear (report, June 28) distinctly says "Irritant to eyes" and has a recommended dilution. I can hardly believe the Ministry of Agriculture would be callous enough to spray it neat into the eyes of an innocent rabbit, or naive enough, having seen the expected reaction, then to ban it.

Timely research in our household, without the benefit of animal experimentation, has shown us the dangers of using bleach in the sink and down the drains: our lawnmower runs on petrol which is not only irritant but used injudiciously, I am told, can ignite and explode.

Most gardeners are both sensible and literate. Clearly the MAFF is neither.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. RING,
Chaldon Cottage,
Doctors Lane, Caterham, Surrey.
June 28.

Don't bank on it

From Mrs Kay Glendinning

Sir, I arrived outside a local branch of my bank at 8.59am today and despite the notice on the door it was not opened until four minutes past. I was even more surprised to see the date above the counter registered Monday, June 31 and finally to see the large clock was reading 8 o'clock. What chance I wonder for the money in my account?

Yours faithfully,
KAY GLENDINNING,
Meadow Farm, Southbrook Road,
West Ashling, West Sussex.
July 1.

OBITUARIES

MARGOT HEMINGWAY

Margot Hemingway, actress and model, was found dead in her studio in Santa Monica, California, on July 1 aged 41. She was born on February 1, 1955.

MARGOT HEMINGWAY was not the best actress of her generation. But for a brief moment she looked set to equal, in terms of pure phenotypic beauty, any of the luminous Hollywood stars of the 1950s. She projected a sturdy, statuesque all-American quality; the granite-jawed Amazon crowned with a leonine mane of blonde hair and those trademark, strikingly dark eyebrows.

She made only a handful of films (under the stage name of Margaux), the best known of which was her first, *Lipstick*, in 1976. This became notorious from the moment of its release, not for any real artistic merit, but for the powerful bathroom scene in which Hemingway's character is raped. Hemingway, dressed in an evening gown, ends the film by levelling the score and shooting her assailant in the groin. The critics found it all unforgivably brutal and exploitative.

Unlike her younger sister Mariel, who also starred in *Lipstick* and who went on to better things as an actress, Margot never regarded her film career too seriously. She took after her grandfather, Ernest Hemingway, and preferred the outdoor life and the anaesthetic charms of the liquor bottle. There were also various romances and two marriages to distract her and to feed the gossip columns.

It was more as a photographic model that she made her mark. In the latter half of the 1970s she was regarded, simply, as the most glamorous woman of her generation. She was also one of the most well rewarded. After totting up an impressive tally of glossy magazine covers, Hemingway won a contract from the American cosmetics house of Fabergé in 1975. The \$1-million deal was to launch her new scent, Babe.

Hemingway's glided youth gave way to a dark period in her thirties. She seemed doomed to carry on the family traditions of mental illness and alcoholism. Her famous grandfather, after a lifetime of aggressive drinking, had blown his head off with a shotgun when Margot was only six. His brother and father also killed themselves. While Margot Hemingway was quick to acknowledge the favours the family name had done her, this trail of self-destruction was as much a part of her genetic inheritance as her famous eyebrows.

She was born the middle of three daughters to Jack Hemingway. He, in turn, was the eldest of Ernest Hemingway's three sons and made his living as a stockbroker and game fishing com-



Margot Hemingway with Anne Bancroft in the courtroom scene of *Lipstick*, 1976

missioner of Idaho. Margot was brought up among cowboys on a ranch seven miles north of the town of Ketchum in Idaho. She was originally christened Margot, but soon discovered the real reason behind her parents' choice of name, and changed the spelling accordingly: she had been conceived after her parents had shared a bottle of Chateau Margaux.

There was nothing remarkable about her childhood. She was good at sports, rode horses, fished, bicycled everywhere and grew to be 6ft tall. She went through a string of offbeat jobs as a teenager. She chauffeured George C. Scott's daughter around Hollywood, worked as a barmaid, and briefly as a publicist. At 19 she left Idaho for New York, and met the first of two husbands, Errol Watson. He was in his thirties, and had made a fortune in the very unglamorous business of hamburgers. He spotted her potential and pushed her into a modelling career. Margot was not naturally extrovert and she coped with the brittle Studio 54 party life by drinking.

Her modelling career blossomed swiftly — not least because of her

name. Everyone wanted to pay court to Hemingway's granddaughter. Work for *Vogue* and a coveted cover for *Time* followed, and in 1975 she landed her contract with Fabergé. Lauren Hutton's contract for Revlon had, until that point, been the most lucrative in the world of modelling. Now Hemingway became the highest paid model in the world. The work was not all to her taste, however. She was obliged to wear the new sweat scent, Babe, everywhere in public, and to wear a sickly shade of peach which matched the scent's packaging.

Hollywood did not so much beckon as send out scouting parties for her. Her first film, *Lipstick*, was produced by Dino De Laurentiis who promised to make her a star. Hemingway played a fashion model who is raped, but then not believed when she brings the case to court. The model resorts to luring the rapist into a trap, using as bait her younger sister (played, on Margot's suggestion, by Mariel Hemingway). The model then extracts her own form of revenge with a shotgun.

Unfortunately for Hemingway — who put in a decent performance and looked wonderful — she was complete-

ly outshone as an actress by her precocious sister. The hype before the film's release, which included gigantic billboards of her face on Sunset Boulevard, did not help and was followed by painfully frank reviews of her acting abilities. The 14-year-old Mariel went on to a serious acting career, starring alongside Woody Allen in *Manhattan* in 1979.

Margot Hemingway's acting career went into decline, although she continued to appear in the occasional film, at the rate of one every couple of years. None was especially distinguished. *Killer Fish* (1978), in which Lee Majors is eaten by a shoal of rubberised piranhas, was a particular low point. *Over the Brooklyn Bridge* (1983), which was a frantic comedy about a Jewish restaurant owner in New York, was the only one of which she was proud, and for which she got good notices.

Acting, after that first painful baptism, was not the focus of her life. She was divorced from her first husband in 1978 and in 1979 she married the French film-maker Bernard Fouchet. She seemed to fit easily into Parisian society. The Fabergé contract ran for five years, but afterwards, while she kept her figure, there were more products to endorse. In 1984 she helped her husband to make a film about her grandfather. She spent her summers back in Ketchum.

Behind that sunny, well-adjusted face, Hemingway's health was swiftly deteriorating. Her second marriage, which had seemed so contented, began to go wrong in the mid-1980s (it quietly ended in divorce). With no regular work, Margot Hemingway turned more aggressively to drink. She had wrestled with epilepsy and bulimia since she was a teenager. Now she became fat and bloated — the unforgeable sin for models. There were regular, well-publicised trips to clinics and soul-searching interviews in tabloid newspapers.

Despite the relentless media pressure, she appeared finally to have beaten her addiction to alcohol in the past few years. There was a new name — she decided to become Margot again, perhaps to avoid the painful experience, for a reformed alcoholic, of being named after a bottle of claret. And, after receiving intensive psychiatric help, she appeared to have become a more contented, slimmer woman.

She moved to Santa Monica, and cycled around the neighbourhood on a battered old bicycle. Her agent found her projects, and she had just completed the narration to a series about wildlife. She appeared in good spirits, and the cause of her death — which was only discovered when worried friends broke into her house — was not immediately apparent. There were no children.

CAPTAIN GEORGE KITCHIN

Captain George Kitchin, CBE, destroyer captain, died on June 23 aged 75. He was born on February 14, 1921.



GRADUATING from Dartmouth on the eve of the Second World War, Midshipman George Armand de Gavarde Kitchin underwent a number of alarming experiences. His first ship, the battleship *Barham*, was damaged by a torpedo in December 1939; his second, the battleship *Rodney*, by a 2,000lb bomb off Norway in early 1940. In January 1942 his third ship, the destroyer *Gurkha*, was escorting a vital convoy to the besieged Malta when it was torpedoed and sunk by a U-boat. The Dutch destroyer *Isaac Sweers* towed the wreck clear of blazing oil fuel and rescued nearly all the crew.

Kitchin later served as a liaison officer to the Royal Hellenic Navy in the destroyer *Kondouriotis*. In October 1943 he was appointed as second-in-command successively to the destroyers *Bickerton*, *Cotton* and *Childers*, in which he saw service in the North Atlantic and with the convoys to Russia. He participated in the Normandy invasion and ended his war in the Mediterranean.

While still in *Childers* in 1947, Kitchin was awarded a mention in dispatches for distinguished service during the Palestine Patrol. This was the Royal Navy's contribution to Britain's difficult and debilitating balancing act between Arab and Jewish interests that conditioned the final years of the Palestine Mandate. In order to keep faith with the Arabs, it was necessary to resettle the numbers of Jewish immigrants to 1,500 a month; arrivals above this limit were to be interned in hastily prepared camps in Cyprus. A naval blockade was set up to prevent immigrant ships beaching. In order to increase moral pressure, the Haganah organisers decreed that lethal weapons would not be used against the sailors and the British would be shown up as cruel oppressors of the survivors of the Holocaust.

Childers's first interception was the immigrant ship *The Four Freedoms*. Unable themselves to use lethal weapons, the British had to board against severe physical resistance, finding the wheelhouse guarded by tough young seaboys armed with iron bars. Kitchin said later: "We felt sorry for the refugees, especially the women. It was before the days of women's lib and there was great reluctance to use force against them. But when a strapping young or middle-aged woman hits you over the head with a bottle or knees you in the groin, you don't feel sorry for her at that particular moment. Maybe you feel sorry for her later, but not then."

A later vessel, the *President Warfield*, presented technical difficulties. The boarding operation over carried out in peacetime. It took several days to mount her elaborate defences and stop her, by which time nearly all *Childers*'s boarders needed medical attention, three Jews were dead or dying and 28 had to be taken to hospital. Even in harbour in Palestine or elsewhere careful precautions had to be taken against sabotage and terrorism: it was Haganah's ambition to sink a destroyer. Widely known as an ebull-

lient and effective leader, Kitchin's subsequent naval career was remarkable for the number of ships that he commanded — a total of six destroyers and frigates and a frigate squadron, mainly in the Far East. Interspersed with these appointments were tours on the staffs of seagoing admirals and the Ministry of Defence, as well as a return to Greece as a teacher in the naval staff college.

His final post was in the rank of commodore, overseeing the production and delivery of all naval contract-built ships. He retired in 1976, being appointed a CBE.

In retirement he became an Admiralty Master, responsible for captaining all new warships during their contractor's sea trials under the Red Ensign and before their acceptance by the Navy. His more than fifty vessels included all three of the Navy's present-day aircraft carriers.

A supporter of the Sail Training Association, a keen fisherman and shot, he was also a talented gardener, his topiary featuring in French and British gardening magazines.

He is survived by his wife Jean and their three sons.

LEO NICHOLS

Leo Nichols, shipping executive, died in Rangoon on June 22 aged 65. He was born on June 8, 1931.

DYING of a stroke in a Rangoon hospital after having served two and a half months of a three-year prison sentence in the city's Insein prison, Leo Nichols was an unlikely mar-

tyr to the cause of a free Burma. A talented businessman, he possessed energy and acumen which enabled him to make a good living, even during the decades of the Burmese Way to Socialism.

When the economic opening-up began at the end of the 1980s, he put all his vigour into attracting trade and investment, which was just what

Burma's ruling junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), was calling for. It was thus typical of the SLORC's fixation with keeping total control, regardless of all other considerations, that it arrested Nichols. The formal charge, almost incredibly, was the possession of several unlicensed telephones and fax machines; but the government

newspaper openly accused him of helping Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the opposition National League for Democracy which won 80 per cent of the seats in the (aborted) 1990 election. James Leander (Leo) Nichols was born of mixed origins — Greek, Scottish, Armenian and Burmese. He was the son of George Alexander Nichols,

who owned the Stevedoring Shipping Company in Rangoon. In 1942 the family walked from Burma to India to escape the invading Japanese, and Nichols's father died during the long trek out. Nichols was educated at boarding school in Darjeeling. After the war, the family returned to Burma, where Nichols worked for a Scandinavian shipping firm and later became general manager of United Liners Agencies. He married his wife, Felicity, in 1951. She and their five children have lived out of Burma in Australia and America for a number of years.

With the nationalisation of all private companies from 1962, when General Ne Win took power, Nichols had to start again. He became honorary Consul-General for Norway, Sweden and Denmark, and even after he was forced to relinquish these semi-official positions in 1981, after a brush with the authorities, he continued to act unofficially for these Governments, and for Finland and Switzerland, none of whom had resident diplomatic representation in Rangoon.

Western businessmen visiting Burma tended to head for Nichols's house, on the way in from the airport, for good advice, practical help and a taste of his booming hospitality. The more favoured would be shown his veteran cars, including two pre-war Aston Martins, a very early Fiat and his collection of more than 300 job watches.

But much of his energy was



Nichols with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

directed towards looking after other people — his close friends, like "Monty" Myint Thein, the Grand Old Man of Burma, the former Chief Justice and Ne Win's great antagonist, who died in 1994. And for years he helped Daw Khin Kyi, widow of the martyred General Aung San and mother of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Nichols came to the attention of the authorities because of the practical help he gave to the daughter after the mother died in 1988, help that had nothing to do with her entry into politics, but stemmed simply from his friendship

with the family. Indeed, Nichols had no wish to become involved in politics as such, and he was never one for ostentatious heroics. Yet he went on visiting and helping Suu Kyi.

He was first picked up and interrogated for ten days in 1989, at the notorious military intelligence centre near Rangoon airport. What followed was hilarious: finding the food inedible, he obtained permission for his cook to send in enough for himself and his interrogators. His foreign friends in and outside Burma then arranged for a flood of

faxes to the Trade Minister, offering to come immediately to look at investment opportunities in Burma, but only if they could meet Nichols. He was accordingly allowed out from his interrogation to dine with these foreign visitors.

Nichols also supported a range of good causes that helped the poor, the pious and the sick in Burma, particularly organising a water supply for a Buddhist monastery and orphanages through the Roman Catholic Church. After arranging to install a new refrigerator in the Home for the Aged Poor in Rangoon, he is recalled waiting round the kitchen with the elderly nun in charge, singing "Daisy, Daisy. Give me your answer do!"

He suffered laterally from failing eyesight, high blood pressure and diabetes. It is all too likely that the lengthy interrogations to which he was subjected during his solitary confinement in prison hastened his death, which occurred an hour or so after he was sent from prison to the Rangoon General Hospital. Burmese army officials conducted an autopsy without any civilian witnesses and (typically) tried to discourage family and friends from attending the hastily arranged funeral.

An Australian friend made sure that a bottle of whisky was put in the grave with him, in token of his unending hospitality.

Leo Nichols is survived by his wife Felicity and by his five children.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUR WILL

If you are making your will please think of *WILL*. We can help you to make a will and ensure that your wishes are carried out in the event of your death.

The Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children

The young people to whom we give financial help have the will to live and many of them do. By remembering the Fund in your will you will enable us to expand our work. For more information please contact us on 0171 537 4405 or write to 14 Abingdon Road, London W8 6AF. Registered Charity No. 256435

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THE TRUSTEES OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE MR. J. H. NICHOLS, deceased, hereby give notice that they have accepted the appointment of the executors named in the will of the deceased.

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EXECUTION OF RICHARD PARKER FOR MURDER

Friday morning, at 3 o'clock, a gun was fired from on board His Majesty's ship, *L. Epsom*, lying off the Gullery, Vice-Admiral LUTWIDGE's flag ship, and the Yellow Flag, the signal of capital punishment, was hoisted, which was immediately repeated by the Sandwhich.

ON THIS DAY

July 3, 1797

Richard Parker, leader of the Nore mutiny, was a man of some education and had earlier been a midshipman. Unlike the *Spithhead* mutiny in May, for which good reasons could be found, that at the Nore appeared to be based on a general feeling of discontent.

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Why looks can make you a loser

So Sir George Gardiner, MP, 61, has been forgiven his ugliness and reelected by the Reigate constituents he has represented for 22 years. Lucky for him that he is not just starting out. And lucky Douglas Hogg, Ann Widdecombe and Robin Cook, to name but a few others, for the same reason.

Regular features, well-spaced eyes, prominent cheekbones, good teeth and a square jaw are what the cameras love. And what the cameras love, voters love, because in these days of Pamela Anderson et al. physical defects are seen as moral defects.

Nothing ensures President Clinton's high place in the polls more than his looks. His height, angular jawbone and wiry grey hair signify "presidential". Poor Bob Dole, trying to overcome the handicaps of 72 years plus a withered arm.

To represent the people today, you have to look better than they do. Tony Blair is a pleasant-looking man by every ordinary standard but he is not square-jawed. There are few sadder sights in British politics than his efforts to smile without showing the teeth that God gave him, because of what the camera makes of them.

Hair presents a special trap. Baldness has become an absolute barrier to the American presidency. It is no help in Britain, either. In the run-up to the last general election, one could see Neil Kinnock's chances fade as his scalp emerged. And could the Prince of Wales's worst problem be the bald patch on the back of his head?

Too much hair is bad, too — witness Radovan Karadzic. Facial hair is risky unless you are Irish, and even then it is not for everybody. Gerry Adams can indulge in a full beard. But the little moustache of the Irish Foreign Secretary, Dick Spring, is embarrassing.

Fate has generally spared the human female the indignity of baldness. But for women in the public eye, hair, far more than weight, remains the biggest challenge: one of the things that Baroness Thatcher triumphantly got right where so many capable others — such as Hillary Clinton — have failed. As television makes of everybody what Roland Barthes calls "a face object", the frame of the ambitious female

face must be tidy, neither too harsh nor too sexy, and of a warm colour, not grey.

Luckily, body fascism is one of those American obsessions such as political correctness and jogging, which crosses the Atlantic but with diminished force. An American visitor, staring at the irregular teeth of a British pundit on the BBC, marvelled: "Can you imagine anybody that ugly being allowed on American television?"

American insistence on the poster-perfect does not easily allow even for interesting asymmetry in the Jeremy Paxman, Kirsty Wark manner. But it would be folly to pretend that even here, the hard-on-the-eye will ever get fair treatment on television.

The British politician who would represent the people without looking better than they does have some options: to be well-dressed, to be passionate, to be funny, if possible all three. And to use radio.

Speaking of ugliness, why, if "wops" and "niggers" are taboo, are "frogs" and "Fritzes" OK? The Commission for Racial Equality has been deluged with complaints about tabloid treatment of the Germans last week.

But the commission has no powers over the media. The law against inciting racial hatred is part of the 1986 Public Order Act.

Complaints must be made to the police, to be taken up by the Crown Prosecution Service, if it sees fit. The CPS does not see fit often. Although its efforts have convicted the Dowager Lady Birdwood of stirring up racial hatred with her booklet about an alleged conspiracy of Jewish bankers, the CPS has far more often found it "not in the public interest" to take action.

More alert use of this law would stop the cry for a new law to curb the press. Did you hear Tim McVie-Ross, the director-general of the Institute of Directors, on *Any Questions* last weekend? He declared roundly that, as the content of television and radio broadcasts is regulated, there is no reason why the press's content should not be as well.

The depressing thing was that he seemed genuinely not to know why one medium is controlled and the other unregulated. The reason cannot be repeated too often. Airwaves are scarce. Paper is not.



BRENDA MADDOX

Emma the First Lady

EMMA THOMPSON, Britain's leading lady in Hollywood, is being lined up for the role of another "first lady". Thompson and the actor Tom Hanks are both lead candidates to play a thinly disguised Hillary Rodham Clinton and President Clinton in Mike Nichols's screen version of the bestselling American novel, *Primary Colors*.

Nichols picked up the rights to the anonymously penned novel for a reported £1 million and is understood to be planning to make it his next film. *Primary Colors* focuses on a young communications and public relations whiz-kid who becomes involved in a presidential election campaign and has a fling with the candidate's wife.

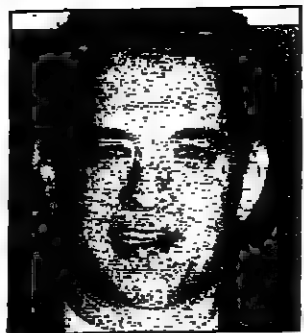
Tinseltown insiders suggest that it may have been Thompson's frequent change of hair-do and hair colour that made

Nichols think her a perfect match for the "Hillary-style" character.

Tipping Glover

NEWS reaches The Listener from Conrad Black's Canary Wharf headquarters about his much-prized *Spectator* magazine. For tip to replace the recently appointed wit and raconteur, Frank Johnson, is the journal's media correspondent and former Editor of the *Independent on Sunday*, Stephen Glover. Canary Wharfers who remember how Glover's last editorship nearly destroyed an entire newspaper group can be confident for a little while longer, however. Johnson is said to be safe until the election.

ATTEMPTS by the Reader's Digest organisation to introduce US-style marketing techniques into British schools appear to have fallen flat. Under the American system, the company offers schools a 30 per cent cut on any Reader's Digest magazine subscription that they can persuade their pupils to take out. According to a company spokes-



Tom Hanks and Emma Thompson: may play Clintons

woman, it is seen in America as "a good way" for schools to raise money for new equipment. *Educationists on this side of the Atlantic, however, are not convinced that it is proper for schools to take advantage of their pupils in this way. Apparently, only a handful of schools in Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire who were given the chance to take part in a pilot project have accepted.*

The Maxwell way

YOU might have thought that the Maxwell dynasty had had enough of journalism and the



So isn't the mild-mannered Rosen being just a teeny bit pretentious in his choice of name? "It just so happens that KPN has the name registered in Holland," he ripostes.

Floral tribute

THE "Save the World Service" campaign, formed in opposition to the BBC's proposed restructuring — or should it be destructuring — is growing in strength and scale. Not only has it thrown veteran World Service defenders, including former Delhi bureau chief Mark Tully and the former Beirut hostesses Terry Waite and John McCarthy, back into the media limelight, but it has also brought an unforeseen boost to the florist trade.

Scores of floral tributes, bearing the simple heartrending message, "BBC World Service RIP", have become an almost permanent fixture on the railings outside the World Service's Bush House HQ in the Strand.

"The security guards are told to pull them down from time to time, but they keep reappearing," one Bush House stalwart says proudly.

British agencies bounce back

AFTER two years when it looked as if British advertising was losing its world-beating edge, London agencies have bounced back with a virtuoso performance at the 44th Cannes International Advertising Festival.

Saatchi & Saatchi pulled off a remarkable coup by scooping Agency of the Year for the first time. Saatchi's triumph will have been sharpened by beating Bartle Bogle Hegarty into second place. But best of all, it left M&C Saatchi, "that breakaway", clutching bronze. Altogether, UK agencies amassed 52 awards this year, compared with 31 last time.

However, the Grand Prix, for the ad that is considered best in the world this year, went to *Elephant*, Amirati Puris Linas Amsterdam's humorous film.

ADVERTISING

JUST as the advertising industry has been congratulating itself on what good shape it is in, a terrifying threat to its revenues has emerged. The name of the beast is Charity.

Dominic Cadbury, the chairman of Cadbury Schweppes, speaking at the launch of a survey of 450 of the UK's top client companies by Business in the Community, predicted that cause-related marketing (branded tie-ups with charities) will exceed even the growth of sponsorship, which is now worth £2 billion a year.

The rationale, according to Mr Cadbury, is "its ability to enhance corporate image, differentiate products

and to increase both sales and loyalty. It is enlightened self-interest, a win-win business solution."

The only losers will, it seems, be the advertising industry. Mr Cadbury, whose company has worldwide advertising spends of £700 million, predicts that funds for good works will come from ad budgets. "With TV getting more expensive and audiences fragmenting," he added, "it is getting harder to justify individual-brand TV campaigns. You have to think of other ways of communicating."

ALL this enlightened self-interest must be catching. In what appears to be an ethical epidemic, 60 top recruitment agencies banded together this week to announce the end of age discrimina-

tion in job ads. The agencies, which account for more than 90 per cent of the £800 million-a-year recruitment advertising industry, have pledged not to initiate age limits in ads, to resist attempts to do so and to explain limits that are imposed.

"There is a growing view that this sort of discrimination is unacceptable — as pernicious as discriminating on grounds of sex or race," comments Anne Riley, chief executive of Austin Knight, one of the agencies involved in the campaign.

She predicts its spread to the ad industry itself. "It's an ageing industry that just won't be able to operate unless it changes its attitudes."

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If you are looking for the next challenge in your career and think all this sounds like you, please contact our advising consultant Alannah Hunt, quoting reference A/1634/ST, outlining what you think are the major external communications challenges facing professional services firms in the near future AND use your communications skills to convince her you really are an expert in this field. If you would prefer an initial confidential telephone discussion, please call her on 0171 939 5968 during office hours.

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سكرا من الامم

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JULY 3 1996

Will the glossies switch to TV?

Popular magazines such as *Vogue* and *GQ* may soon be allowed to reinvent themselves for the small screen. Alexandra Frean reports

Magazine publishers, who have been lobbying hard for the right to turn their publications into television programmes, believe they are finally making headway after the Independent Television Commission's announcement that it is to review the rules banning them from transferring their print titles directly to the small screen. So could viewers soon be watching the *Vogue* show or the *What Car?* half-hour on television?

Ian Locks, of the Periodical Publishers Association, which represents almost 200 magazine publishers, believes that viewers are losing out on the rich seam of news and feature material in magazines that could easily become the source of a new concept of consumer TV programming.

For years, Locks says, the regulations have allowed TV shows to launch magazines — a strategy known as "masthead publishing" and employed to great effect by the BBC with a range of titles from *The Clothes Show* magazine to *Gardeners' World*. Magazines, however, have never been allowed to do the same in reverse — "masthead programming" — because the ITC has always considered it a backdoor way for them to plug their titles.

Locks says: "Magazines have effectively been treated in the same way as advertisers of dog food or baked beans." They can sponsor a programme, but they cannot influence its content and put their brand identity on it.

"It is time," he adds, "that the ITC learnt to differentiate between magazines, which have intellectual-property content, and tins of beans. There is an enormous amount of intellectual property bound up

'It might be hard to replicate the quality of our magazines'

notably *Vogue*, *House and Garden* and *GQ* — which he believes might be transferred to the small screen, although recreating the "feel" of the magazine in a TV programme might be difficult and could tarnish the high production values of the print versions.

He explains: "Our magazines try to produce the perfect photo — a frozen moment of perfection — that might be hard to replicate on television. You certainly couldn't get the same effect by having two people sitting on a sofa and chatting. I would be interested to see what other publishers do before we do anything."

The ITC, which is to publish a consultation document on the subject this autumn, says

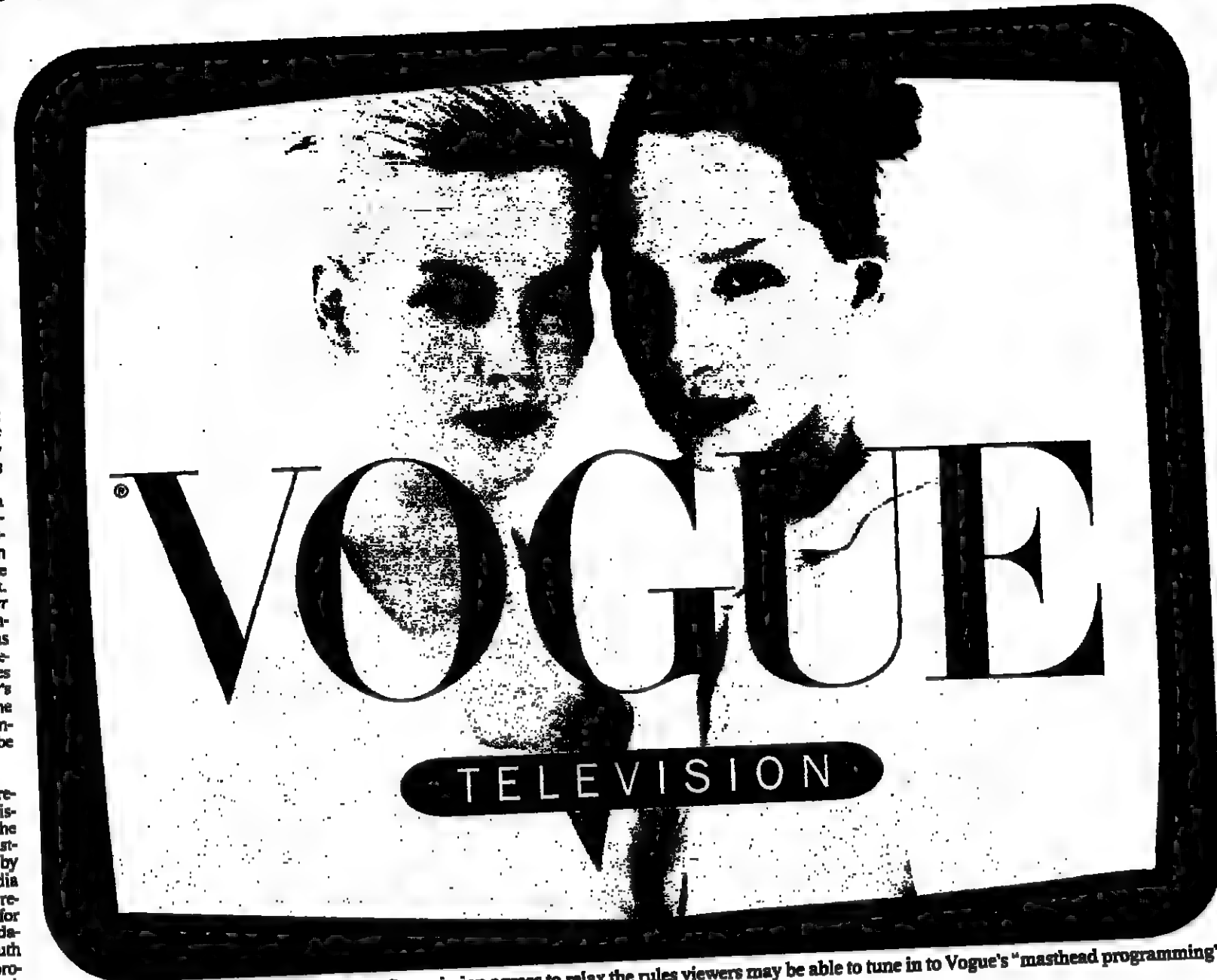
that there is already some flexibility in the existing rules. Publishers can "brand" or sponsor programmes on cable and satellite television, provided they do not influence the content or contribute any business expense. They can also license the name of their titles to programme-makers or even to whole stations, allowing their brand name to be used by TV producers.

Under such an arrangement they would have no say in the content of shows or about how their masthead or name was used.

Although there is already a demand for masthead programming among non-terrestrial channels, the mainstream commercial channels are showing tentative interest. Paul Corley, ITC's controller of network factual programming, says that so long as there were regulations to prevent overtly political titles compromising the industry's strict impartiality rules, he had no objections to the concept. "We would," he says, "be open-minded about it."

Despite the ITC's resistance to the issue until now, the advent of masthead programming is seen by most people in the media business as an inevitable result of the growing trend for convergence and consolidation in the industry. The truth is that publishing and programming companies are already gradually becoming "media neutral". Many newspapers, including this one, are already available on the Internet, as are glossy magazines such as *Tatler*, *Vogue* and *The World of Interiors*.

As Tom Moloney, chief executive of Emap's consumer magazine division in the UK, says: "In the future there will



Screen test if the Independent Television Commission agrees to relax the rules viewers may be able to tune in to Vogue's "masthead programming"

just be brands, such as *Cosmopolitan*, which, if they are strong enough, will be delivered across a whole range of media from magazines, to television to books or whatever."

To many in the industry, then, masthead programming is the logical conclusion of the

so-called "synergies" that are heralded with every media merger or tie-up. It is partly why companies such as Associated, publisher of the *Daily Mail*, and the Mirror Group have invested in cable television companies, and it also lies behind the merger of Lord

Hollick's television-to-financial services group MAI with United, publishers of the *Express* titles.

Some magazine publishers predict that eventually, the demand for more masthead programming will come, not from them, but from the scores

of new digital cable and satellite stations, many of them specialising in niche markets and all of them hungry for tailor-made programming to fill their airtime.

As Terry Mansfield, managing director of the National Magazines Company, says:

"With the explosion of television opportunities in this country, we deeply believe that magazines will become part of the programming possibilities. The channels will need something to show, rather than repeating the same film hundreds of times."

Aids spotlight refocuses on homosexual arena

After years of misdirected health pleas media coverage is switching from the low-risk heterosexual community, says Kyle Smith

After 14 years of Aids awareness campaigns built around cherubic youngsters and fresh-faced mothers, the lives of gay men are finally coming into the bright lights of the media.

Activists find themselves in grudging agreement with conservatives who argue that previous funding for public health messages has been misdirected at low-risk heterosexuals when gay men are dying in greater numbers.

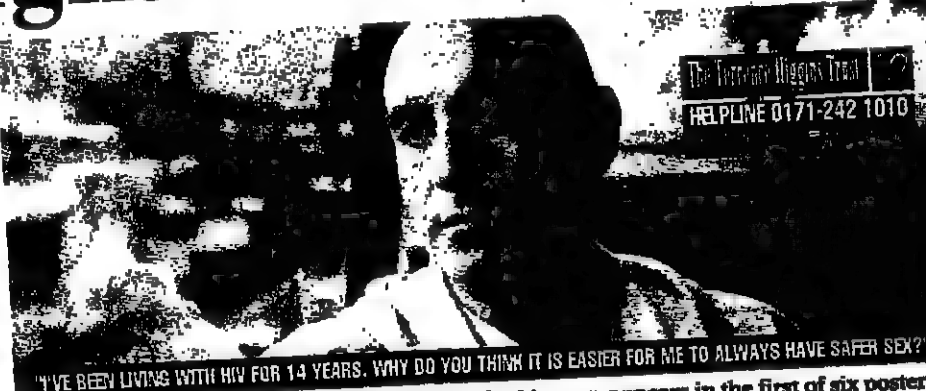
"Most of the work done by the Health Education Authority, I have to say, was probably wasted," says Simon Watney of the Red Hot Aids Charitable Trust. "The work they produced wasn't good because they didn't consult very well with the people forced to live with the disease. They relied on ad agencies whose skill in selling television sets or shampoos never struck me as particularly ap-

propriate to a major health crisis. It is necessary to do generalist education. But the proportion of funding and effort that has gone to that has been disproportionate when Aids has had such a disproportionate impact on gay men."

Mr Watney says the proportion of public Aids awareness spending that has been targeted at gays has only just risen to 15 per cent for years.

Terry Sanderson, media editor of *Gay Times*, says: "There's no doubt that the right wing are crowing a little bit, saying we were right all along, but it could have been very different in the beginning. Nobody really knew what could have happened if there had been no education and no spending."

British film and television dealing with Aids, says the screenwriter Howard Schu-



Jonathan Blake, who has been HIV positive for 14 years, appears in the first of six posters

man, has until recent months focused entirely on heterosexuals. "I think there are two reasons," says Mr Schuman, an American who has worked in Britain for 28 years and recently wrote the BBC drama *Nervous Energy*, about a gay couple living with Aids. "One was a slightly misguided liberal idea that Aids should not be seen as a gay illness, and the other was a wariness of unleashing any gay characters on television."

Mr Schuman says *Nervous Energy*, which was broadcast in December, was the first full-length television drama to

deal with gay characters with Aids. Only one British feature film, *To Die For*, has dealt with gays and Aids, he says. After the success of *Nervous Energy*, several more works about gays with Aids are on the way to British television and cinema.

The refocus on the gay world has become possible only because activists have won a battle frank and open discussion of the disease and associated issues, such as condoms and the mechanics of gay sex, that were not debated in the na-

tional media 20 years ago. "There is a lot more awareness now of what gay life is about," says Mr Sanderson.

This new direction in media coverage is the subject of a conference in Manchester this week. *Transmission 96: HIV/Aids and the Media* will be attended by scholars, activists, medical professionals, journalists and artists.

The conference comes on the heels of an announcement earlier this week by the Terrence Higgins Trust, Britain's largest Aids charity, that it was beginning the first mass-media campaign specifically

targeted at gay men. The advertisements, to be shown on London Transport, in magazines and on billboards, depict real gay men with HIV or Aids in stark black-and-white photographs. The messages are intended to reinforce safer sex habits.

Jonathan Blake, featured in the first advertisement, says: "I have been living with HIV for 14 years, so I know from personal experience that maintaining safer sex over a number of years, every time you have sex, is not easy."

Nick Partridge, chief executive of the Terrence Higgins Trust, says: "Targeting gay men in this campaign does

'Activists have won the battle for frank and open discussion'

not dismiss the importance of other groups who have been affected by HIV."

The new direction of the trust's campaign is not without its perils. Gay activists

worry that government funding will become scarcer and that gay-targeted advertising will miss some people at risk. "I think it's essential that Aids is 're-gayed'," says Mr Sanderson. "The problem is, a lot of people who need the information don't buy the gay press and don't move in gay circles, such as straight men who occasionally lapse and very young gay people."

Mr Watney says: "It is widely recognised that we are not going to get a cure by fiat. The work must be done inside the institutions rather than by the old leftist methods of standing outside shouting."

The door is closing on press freedom

PAPER ROUND
Brian MacArthur



At 76, Sir Frank Rogers, the deputy chairman of the Newspaper Publishers' Association, is one of the grand old men of Fleet Street who very quickly sniffs out any threat to the freedom of the press.

He is now trying to alert editors to a new danger — that an official appointed by the Government is trying to establish privacy legislation by the back door and without any discussion in Parliament.

If Elizabeth France, the Data Protection Registrar, succeeds in becoming Britain's Privacy Commissioner, the investigative skills of journalists will, he says, be seriously inhibited.

So far, his warning seems to be falling on deaf editorial ears, mainly because it involves a numbingly boring subject of mind-boggling complexity — which is precisely the sort of subject that requires eternal vigilance. That subject is the implementation in British law by the Home Office of a new 20-page European Commission Directive, 95/46/EC data protection.

At the centre of the controversy are Articles 8 and 9, which state: "Member states shall prohibit the processing of personal data revealing racial or ethnic origins, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership and the

processing of data concerning health or sex life.

Member states shall provide for exemptions from the provisions... for the processing of personal data carried out solely for journalistic purposes or the purpose of artistic or literary expression only if they are necessary to reconcile the right to privacy with the rules governing freedom of expression."

As citizens, the directive concerns us all, and is to be applauded. We all believe in the protection of personal data, particularly against the misuse of direct-mail address lists, credit references or data held on police computers. So why should journalists seek any special exemption?

The answer is simple: unless there are exemptions for journalists, the directive will inhibit their ability to un-

cover scandal in high and low places — the exposure of City fraudsters or drug peddlars or paedophiles. When Robert Maxwell was trying to stop Tom Bower's investigation of his affairs, it was the Data Protection Act that his lawyers advised him to use.

Editors resort very easily to the eloquent defences of the freedom of the press. Yet when investigative newspaper journalism is in decline and Sunday tabloid "MP in three-in-a-bed sex romp" stories strengthen the case for a privacy law, they sometimes ring less convincingly than they did from John Thaddeus Delane of *The Times*, C.P. Scott of the *Manchester Guardian* or Harold Evans of *The Sunday Times*.

Yet that freedom is still vital and could be endangered by EC Directive 95/46.

Unless exemptions are agreed by the Home Office, some of the dangers to journalism are:

- The leader of a fanatical religious cult or an extremist political group could not be identified.
- A journalist could not pose as a customer to get information for a consumer protection story.
- Direct questions could not be asked of the subjects of investigations without drawing attention to their right of access to all data concerning them.
- Journalists could be required to inform the subjects of their investigations prior to publication and could be required to reveal on request the existence of all investigations and all data they held.

The Home Office has asked for replies to a consultation document this month. So Mrs France and newspaper lobbying organisations are now battling for the ear of Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

Mrs France insists that she is being misunderstood and misinterpreted. Her job, she says, is to apply the law as

drafted — which at present allows no exemption for the press. All that she is doing is seeking the co-operation of the press in trying to draft exemption clauses that would leave the freedom of the press intact.

The Newspaper Publishers' Association, representing Fleet Street, and the Newspaper Society, speaking for regional newspapers, beg to differ. Newspapers have complied with the 1984 Data Protection Act, they say, but she is obsessed with privacy which is already self-regulated by the Press Complaints Commission.

Although her own paper on the EC directive says that subject access is "perhaps" a problem for "legitimate" investigations, it adds that the directive has moved permanently the goalposts of society. Individuals are now entitled to know what information is held about them and to a degree of control over that information unless good cause can be shown to the contrary.

Sir Frank has a ready answer: "It is unacceptable for a public official to consider that her role is political rather than administrative. Parliament has not vested her with any powers or duties to influence national thinking on privacy. Every journalist should vigorously and persistently challenge what the registrar is proposing."

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The record-breaker testing England's women to the limit

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THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY JULY 3 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

LME founder acts in Tokyo

Metal broker suspends 3 in copper probe

BY ROBERT MILLER IN LONDON AND RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

A LEADING London metal broker and founder member of the London Metal Exchange has suspended three of its employees in Tokyo as part of an internal investigation related to the \$1.8 billion Sumitomo copper scandal.

Rudolf Wolf, the UK metal broker founded 130 years ago, said yesterday that the three people concerned were co-operating with the internal inquiry into dealings that the firm had with Sumitomo and its former chief copper trader, Yasuo Hamanaka.

A spokesman added: "We would never tolerate any behaviour which is not impeccable. Our total Japanese business accounted for less than four per cent of worldwide revenue which last year was £45 million."

Other major copper dealing and broking firms with offices in Japan, nearly all of whom traded with Sumitomo, declined to comment on whether staff had been suspended pending the outcome of internal investigations.

With so many criminal and civil investigations now being conducted into the Sumitomo copper scandal, involving agencies in America, Britain and Japan, fears that there was a concerted bid to rig the world's copper markets, possibly through fraudulent activities, are mounting.

In London yesterday the price of copper for delivery in three months time, the market benchmark, closed lower at \$1.895 a tonne compared with \$2.900 prior to the scandal becoming public knowledge on June 13.

In America yesterday it was announced that the US Federal Bureau of Investigation has joined the investigation into

the Sumitomo affair by requesting documents from a trader who made a complaint about the Japanese commodities giant in 1991.

The FBI has asked David Threlkeld, who is based in Vermont, to hand over telexes and faxes relating to his dealings with Sumitomo and Mr Hamanaka, the trader blamed for losses that could total \$3 billion when the full extent of his copper dealings are unravelled.

The FBI is understood to be

Delta warns of new stock writedown

DELTA, the cables and engineering group, yesterday gave warning that the drop in copper prices has forced it to write down the value of its metal stocks by £6 million.

It is the second such warning to be issued by Delta in two weeks.

On June 14, when news of the huge Sumitomo losses on copper trading was first emerging, the company said that it had written down the value of its metal stocks by £3 million.

involved as part of a grand jury investigation into Sumitomo and the role of US traders and markets in the debacle. A US copper trading firm, Global Minerals and Metals, has been subpoenaed by the US Attorney's office in Manhattan which is leading the investigation.

Mr Threlkeld complained to the London Metal Exchange in 1991 that Mr Hamanaka had asked him to supply documents detailing false trades.

The LME, however, accepted Sumitomo's explanation that the documents were required for legitimate Japanese tax reasons even though they were false.

Mr Threlkeld said: "I think more will be revealed. The more they dig around, the bigger this gets." He added that he had not been contacted by any of the British or US regulatory authorities who are investigating the case.

Meanwhile, in an attempt to end criticism that it was doing nothing about the scandal, Sumitomo has appointed the New York office of Coopers & Lybrand, the accountants, and a New York law firm to carry out an internal investigation.

Coopers said it has been asked to look at the whole company worldwide.

In Britain the Serious Fraud Office, the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog, and the Securities and Futures Authority, the regulator for brokers and futures dealers, have begun to evaluate the information collected on their trip to Japan last week from which they returned on Sunday.

Privately those concerned in the various UK investigations into the Sumitomo copper scandal say the data they brought back from Japan is "thin".

The SIB, which interviewed Mr Hamanaka in London in 1991 over Mr Threlkeld's allegations, said last night: "This is a major and highly complex inquiry involving several jurisdictions. We shall now be pursuing our statutory inquiry through the machinery established last week and the international co-operation successfully established with Japanese and US authorities."



Graham Roper, chairman of The Berkeley Group, the housebuilder, said current sales reservations are running 20 per cent ahead of last year. Berkeley's annual pre-tax profits rose 15.3 per cent to £43.4 million. Page 29; Tempus, Page 30

Scrap Tecs, urges secret report

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

A CONFIDENTIAL policy paper from the Training and Enterprise Councils (Tecs) has recommended that they be scrapped and replaced with a new framework of local organisations to promote economic development.

The proposals are currently being examined by the leaders of the Tecs who will gather in Birmingham today for their annual conference.

The Government is also currently proposing a radical review of the £250 million that it spends on services to business, suggesting that their delivery is moved from the Department of Trade and Industry and is handled instead at local level by Business Links, the one-stop shop service centres run by Tecs, councils and chambers of commerce.

The Tecs' unpublished document says that the "wide range" of business bodies "risks incoherence and duplication."

Tecs and chambers are already merging, and the draft document, which will be considered by its national council in September, says: "In the longer term, it may well be that what is needed is the evolutionary development of a completely new national framework of employer-owned and led bodies."

Such organisations, it says, would be recognised by the Government as having the responsibility for local economic development and competitiveness, and for the delivery of business services, including training.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, told the annual chambers' conference in Birmingham yesterday that the Government "attaches great importance to making increasing use of the Business Link network to deliver services to business at local level."

No tax cuts, page 28
Future focus, page 31

BUSINESS TODAY

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|
| FT-SE 100 | 3725.7 | (+0.1) |
| Yield | 4.87% | |
| FT-SE All share | 1953.54 | (+0.58) |
| Nikkei | 22347.57 | (-107.52) |
| New York | 5710.77 | (-19.21)* |
| S&P Composite | 673.58 | (-1.90)* |

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| 3-mth Interbank | 8.4% | (9.4%) |
| Life long gilt | 108.7% | (108.7%) |

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| New York | 1.5585 | (1.5581) |
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KKR to back bid for Pearson titles

BY ERIC REGULY

A BRITISH company backed by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, America's most powerful leveraged buyout firm, is set to bid for Westminster Press (WP), the regional newspaper group that has been put up for auction by Pearson.

Newquest Media Group, which is controlled by KKR, is thought to be among the strongest candidates for WP. Jim Brown, chairman and chief executive of Newquest, would not confirm that a bid is imminent, but said: "We are very interested in Westminster Press. We have an advantage because we would have no competition problems and no financing problems."

Analysts have valued WP as high as £350 million, though bids are expected to be substantially lower. Anthony de

Larrinaga, of Panmure Gordon, said: "I would guess that £300 million would be the top price. Pearson fattened up the margins to sell it, but they didn't attack the core problem of declining readership."

WP owns about 60 daily and weekly titles with a total circulation of 2.4 million. The larger ones include the *Evening Argus*, *Brighton*, and *The Northern Echo*. The group reported a trading profit of £25 million, before exceptional charges of £5.7 million, on turnover of £143 million in 1995.

Rivals may include Tony O'Reilly's Independent News, which has just raised £108 million through a rights issue, and Trinity International Holdings, which last year bought the bulk of Thomson's regional titles.

Crédit Suisse to shed 5,000 jobs

BY ROBERT MILLER

UP TO 5,000 jobs will be lost as the result of a global restructuring plan announced yesterday by CS Holding, the Swiss parent company of Crédit Suisse and CS First Boston.

The bulk of the job losses, for which the Swiss bank is to set aside a provision of around £513 million, will fall in Switzerland where 3,500 staff are expected to leave. Dr Josef Ackermann, president of Credit Suisse's executive board, has resigned "due to differing views". The London office is expected to lose "a handful of jobs" mostly through natural wastage.

The Swiss group said that the newly branded Credit Suisse group would begin operations on January 1 1997.

More jobs likely as Boots grows

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BOOTS yesterday revealed plans to spend £300 million on developing its 1,228-strong chemists chain over the next four years. Boots the Chemist opened 48 stores last year, creating 1,800 jobs, many part-time, so the opening of 40 more stores can be expected to create 1,500 jobs this year.

The company is also pushing on with pilot trials of a customer loyalty card. A second, larger trial of the Advantage card is about to be launched in about 20 stores in Devon. Steve Russell, Boots the Chemist managing director, said the first trial, at 13 stores in the Norwich area, had proved "extremely encouraging." Around 30 per cent of customers signed for the card and sales had risen over 3 per cent — more than

paying for the scheme. He said it was not certain that the scheme, which offers discounts and uses smart card technology, would be extended to the whole country. Smart cards contain computer chips and carry more data than the credit card-style loyalty cards used by most retailers.

Mr Russell said the bulk of the capital investment investment will go on store development and on systems. He said BIC is considering an expansion into markets abroad but gave no details. The company's aim is to open a total of 240 more small stores in the UK. So far it has opened 130 and it hopes to open a further 40 this year.

Tempus, page 30

Getty strikes it rich for Rothschild

BY JON ASHWORTH

LORD (Jacob) Rothschild has made a profit of more than £10 million in just 16 months, after backing the fortunes of two young City merchant bankers. RIT Capital Partners, the investment trust of which he is chairman, cleaned up yesterday, when Getty Communications floated on the American Nasdaq exchange, valuing the company at \$154 million.

The float makes paper millionaires of the company's co-founders, Mark Getty and Jonathan Klein, both 36, who worked together at Hambros Bank before going into business together three years ago. Their share

stakes are jointly worth \$12.5 million. Tony Stone, founder of Tony Stone Images, one of the world's leading stock photography agencies, holds shares worth \$11 million.

RIT put up £3.6 million in March 1995 to help Getty Communications to finance the purchase of Tony Stone Images. By the time of the Nasdaq float, the investment had swollen to £14.5 million. Other winners include Hambros Bank, which sees a £2 million investment treble to £6.5 million. RIT and Hambros have taken profits by reducing their holdings in Getty, but retain stakes in the company.

Mr Getty, son of J. Paul Getty II, the

philanthropist, had been seeking a business focus for the Getty family, which sold its oil interests to Texaco in the early 1980s for \$11 billion. He and Mr Klein decided the future lay in visual content, which includes contemporary and archival still and moving imagery.

The pair have made three acquisitions so far: Tony Stone Images; the Hulton Deutsch Collection, now Hulton Getty; and Fabulous Footage, a Toronto stock footage company. Further acquisitions are planned in archival films and photo-journalism.

The Nasdaq move sees a third of Getty Communications floated off in American Depository Shares, raising

\$50 million. After profit-taking by RIT and Hambros, the company is left with \$32 million before expenses, to repay acquisition-related debt of about \$20 million. After expenses, Getty will have \$8 million free for further investment. Neither Mr Klein nor Mr Getty have sold any shares.

Mr Klein, chief executive of Getty, said: "We believe that Getty Communications is ideally placed to exploit the demand for visual content. The funds raised by the offering should enable us to enhance and expand our product range." America accounts for about 43 per cent of the company's sales. Getty Communications remains based in London.

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1996

The Board of Directors of Compagnie Financière Richemont AG announces the following results for the year ended 31 March 1996.

| | 1996 | 1995 | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Net Sales Revenue | £ 4,306.9 m | £ 3,852.1 m | + 11.8% |
| Operating Profit | £ 798.9 m | £ 688.0 m | + 16.1% |
| Profit Attributable to Unitholders | £ 316.1 m | £ 261.9 m | + 20.7% |
| Earnings per Unit | £ 55.05 | £ 45.61 | + 20.7% |
| Dividend per Unit | £ 8.00 | £ 7.00 | + 14.3% |

The financial highlights shown above exclude the effects of exceptional items and goodwill amortisation from the results for both years.

- The Group's operating profit was 16.1% above the previous year at £798.9 million.
- Operating profit from Richemont's tobacco interests, which are held through Rothmans International, increased by 21.3% to £605.7 million.
- Vendôme Luxury Group, the holding company for the Group's luxury goods interests, reported an increase of 12.3% in operating profit to £249.7 million.
- Richemont's share of operating losses from its media interests, which are held through Nethold BV, increased by £8.2 million to £46.3 million.

Copies of the full results announcement and the annual report may be obtained from: Compagnie Financière Richemont AG, Registraar 2 6300 Zug, Switzerland. Telephone: +41 (0)41 710 33 22. Telefax: +41 (0)41 711 71 38.

Richemont International Limited, 15 Hill Street, London W1X 7FB. Telephone: +44 (0)171 499 2539. Telefax: +44 (0)171 491 0524.

BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

BCC urges politicians to resist cutting tax

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S business leaders gave a strong warning against pre-election tax cuts and urged politicians not to throw away Britain's competitive economic advantages for short-term electoral gain.

The annual conference of the British Chambers of Commerce heard pleas from business and the banks for economic stability and the maintenance of low inflation.

Political leaders are this week making a fresh pitch at business, with Tony Blair today scheduled to follow Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, at the chambers' conference.

Mr Lang yesterday insisted to the conference that a Labour government would be "inherently damaging" to business in Britain, in spite of the "honeyed words" from Mr Blair. Labour, Mr Lang said, would increase taxes, put up inflation, increase the power of the trade unions and in reality intervene more directly in British industry.

He warned business leaders against Britain forfeiting its competitive edge by voting Labour into office.

A poll of chief executives and chairmen at the BCC

conference yesterday by BBC TV's *Business Breakfast* shows that business is largely unafraid of a Labour government. Among the sample of delegates surveyed, 60 per cent said they were not worried by the prospect of Labour being elected, with 34 per cent expressing concern.

BCC delegates were more divided about an early general election, with 48 per cent against such a move and 35 per cent in favour.

Robin Geldard, BCC President, spoke out against tax cuts in the run-up to an election. He said: "What we fear is that politicians, for political reasons, might be tempted to do things which might not suit the economy and might not suit business — like giving away tax which would be very much against." But he denied that the invitation to Mr Blair to speak at the BCC conference for the second year running amounted to an endorsement by business of Labour.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, the deputy chairman of Lloyds TSB, told the conference that British firms strongly needed economic stability to maintain their competitiveness. He



Jürgen Gehrels said Britain had a pro-business environment

said: "The need for economic stability cannot be overstated. Firms are in search of lasting gains from job stability rather than short-term incentives such as capital allowances."

In his speech, Mr Lang argued that the Government's policy towards industry in Britain now supported regions of the UK so that a "virtuous circle of competition, performance and competitiveness

Opt-out did not decide Siemens UK investment

By Our Industrial Editor

SIEMENS, the German electronics manufacturer, yesterday insisted that Britain's opt-out from European social legislation played no part in its decision to invest £1.1 billion in a new manufacturing plant in the UK.

Government ministers strongly maintain that Britain's opt-out from the social provisions of the Maastricht Treaty, which was negotiated by the Prime Minister, is central to companies investing in the UK in what the Conservatives claim is a principal success for the Government.

Ministers, including Mr Major and Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, cite Siemens as a clear example of Britain's role as the enterprise centre of Europe. But yesterday, Siemens said the opt-out did not in any way affect its investment move.

Jürgen Gehrels, Siemens chief executive, told the BCC conference that the Siemens decision did reflect the pro-business environment created in Britain over the last 10-15 years, but that specifically excluded the EU social chapter. He said: "Britain's opt-out of this part of the Maastricht treaty had no impact whatsoever on our decision. This is not some kind of sweat shop we are creating in north Tyne-side. It is as high-tech as any facility, Siemens or otherwise, anywhere in the world."

He said the social chapter was "a bit of red herring," which could actually conceal the progress that Britain had made, and he reinforced the value of his criticism of the social chapter by supporting the UK Government's economic policies, which he said were now becoming a role model for others to follow in Europe.

But he echoed Labour's claims when he said: "I do not believe that the United Kingdom has any future at all as a low-wage, low-skill economy," pointing out that labour costs in the Czech Republic were 7 per cent of United Kingdom costs, and those in China a "mere fraction" of them.

He said: "So if we were to compete on that basis, we would not stand a chance of winning." Britain had to compete on high-value innovation and training.

Mr Gehrels also insisted that Britain had to take part in monetary union. He said: "The economic policy for Britain has to include monetary union. I see no realistic alternative." He attacked as a "serious lack of vision" those in Britain arguing for a withdrawal from the EU.

Howard Davies, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, said it was "essential" that Britain is prepared for a single European currency, and added that planning in Britain for the financial infrastructure of the Euro was already well advanced.

South West to face foul water lawsuit

LEGAL action was yesterday launched against South West Water alleging that it supplied water unfit for human consumption. The company is accused of providing the foul water to areas of south Devon in August and September 1995, causing an outbreak of cryptosporidiosis. The illness, linked to a parasite, gave 575 people stomach upsets, severe abdominal pain and diarrhoea.

The case, brought by John Gummer, Environment Secretary, will come before Newton Abbot Magistrates' Court on August 6. It follows investigations by the Drinking Water Inspectorate, to be published after the case. After the stomach bug outbreak, South West issued a boiled water notice.

Standard details sale

STANDARD LIFE, Europe's largest mutual insurer, yesterday confirmed that a syndicate of leading City houses has been formed to distribute most of its 33 per cent stake, worth about £750 million, in Bank of Scotland, Lazard and BZW have been appointed as joint global co-ordinators. Institutional investors worldwide can expect to see the offer document on July 9, then a series of roadshows involving senior management of the Bank of Scotland. The price will be decided after an international bookbuilding exercise in about three weeks' time.

Vodafone chief's rise

SIR GERALD WHENT, chief executive of Vodafone, the largest mobile phone company, saw his salary and benefits package rise 7 per cent to £600,000 this year. The figure excludes £210,000 in pension contributions, up from £194,000 in 1995. He also has 2.1 million share options with an average exercise price of 115p, against Vodafone's closing price of 245p, up 3p. Next was Chris Gent, managing director, whose salary and benefits rose to £350,000 from £322,000. Mr Gent has 618,000 share options at an average 175p.

Orange numbers grow

ORANGE, the mobile phone company, added 85,000 new customers in the second quarter and said it expects to keep expanding at a similar rate. The increase has taken Orange's total subscribers to 573,000 compared to 193,000 at the same time last year. Tressan McCarthy, an analyst at Panmure Gordon, said 28,000 new customers a month compared with 35,000 formerly was "slightly disappointing" and reflected the lower tariffs introduced by Vodafone and Cellnet. Orange shares closed at 219½p, down 5½p.

Cookson acquisition

COOKSON, the specialist industrial materials group, has bought Camelot Systems, a leading US manufacturer of automated liquid dispensing systems. Cookson paid £37 million in cash and deferred payments may take the total cost to £65 million. Camelot, which is based in Haverhill, Massachusetts, designs and manufactures equipment which applies materials to electronic circuits. It made a profit of £5 million in the year ended December 31 and had net assets of £3.2 million. Cookson shares closed down 3p at 281p.

Meconic buys Phoenix

MECONIC, the specialist manufacturer of fine chemicals, has agreed to buy Phoenix Chemicals for a maximum of £18 million. Meconic will pay an initial consideration of £6 million in cash and shares, with a maximum deferred consideration of £12 million payable by May 2000. Meconic also announced a rise in pre-tax profits to £5.8 million from £4.2 million for the year to May 3. Earnings rose 32 per cent to 12p a share. A final dividend of 3.35p a share makes a maiden total of 5p.

Hartstone hit by US loss

HARTSTONE, the leather goods and hosiery company, saw profits slide to just £39,000 before tax from £4.7 million in the year to March 31. The main reason was a loss of £3.8 million at Michael Stevens, an American subsidiary, arising from stock write-downs as the company acted to clear surplus inventories. There was a loss of 0.2p a share, compared with earnings of 1.8p in the previous year. An unchanged final dividend of 0.32p makes a total of 0.48p (0.32p).

Dixon Motors cash call

DIXON MOTORS, the motor retailer based in the north of England, is raising £12.75 million through a rights issue to fund an acquisition and the current capital expenditure programme. Dixon is buying Gordon Plunkett Group, a nationwide automotive parts distribution business with four motor factoring outlets, for £6.04 million. Dixon is offering investors one new share for every three held at 220p each. It has forecast profits of not less than £2.3 million for the half-year to June 30. The shares rose 6p to 26½p.

Offshore accounts closer

By Philip Jeune and Jon Ashworth

BRITISH accountants yesterday moved a step nearer offshore registration when Jersey gave tentative support to limited liability partnerships. The island's parliament voted 25 to 19 to let firms re-register in Jersey, allowing partners to protect personal assets from legal action.

Detailed provisions must be debated before the proposals become law. The move was welcomed by Ernst & Young, one of the first UK firms to express interest in moving offshore. Price Waterhouse has also supported such a move. KPMG has chosen a different route, making its audit practice a limited company.

There was strong opposition from Jersey politicians who fear that the change would imperil the standing of the island's finance centre, but Pierre Horsfall, finance committee president, said Jersey would benefit. Such a change would be the first of its kind in Europe and would follow reforms in 20 US states.

British Gas launches new attack over price controls

By Christine Buckley

BRITISH GAS yesterday accused the industry regulator of interventionist tactics as it delivered a fresh salvo in the price curb battle between the two sides.

Responding to price curbs put forward last month for its supply business, the company said that the combination of those controls with the price proposals for TransCo, its pipelines operation, made for "unprecedented regulatory pressure".

Although agreement is likely over controls on domestic tariffs, which should trim £8 from household bills, British Gas declared its opposition to several proposals from Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator.

The company said that the call to remove cross-subsidies on its tariffs by April next year was too quick, that price caps on all individual tariffs would necessitate more regulatory control and that the planned reduction of the profit margin to 1.5 per cent was too harsh.

Philip Rogerson, the deputy chairman, said: "We should be looking at fewer regulatory controls now that competition is increasing. Instead, we



Clare Spottiswoode was accused yesterday of interventionist tactics by an irate British Gas

seem to be getting more." British Gas last month also branded the controls planned for TransCo as too interventionist, saying they exceeded present regulatory practice. Despite signals that some compromise may be in the air, there is said to be a wide gulf between them on TransCo. The two sides will meet again

next week. Under Ofgas plans for the pipelines division, about £80 million would be wiped from revenues next year. This would feed through to deliver customer savings of £50 a year by the end of the century, the regulator believes.

Ofgas is due to deliver final proposals on both sets of price

controls by the end of the month. However, with the timetable having already slipped on TransCo, it is likely that the domestic tariff proposals may have to wait until August. If British Gas rejects either or both pricing regimes, it will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Caspian's £29m nets Leeds Utd

By Jason Nossé

LEEDS UNITED, the Premiership football club, is to be taken over by Caspian, the media group, in a £29 million deal, to be announced today. The Leeds board rejected two other offers, including one from Conrad, the sportswear company, worth up to £37 million.

Caspian, run by Chris Akers, the former corporate financier, and Richard Thompson, outgoing chairman of QPR, is offering £17 million for the Leeds and has promised to put another £12 million into the club.

Peter Gilman, a Leeds director who owns 30 per cent of the club, has said he may not accept the offer. In which case, the £5.5 million Caspian saves will be available to buy new football players.

Conrad offered £20 million for Leeds and was willing to put between £15 million and £17 million into the club. A third offer from Norway came too late.

Caspian is expected to publish details of its financing this week. A share issue, backed by Guinness Mahon, is expected to make Leeds the fifth football club to be traded on the stock market.

Ireland boosts GDP to more than 10%

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

IRELAND achieved an impressive 10.1 per cent growth in gross domestic product in 1995 compared with a revised 6.6 per cent for the previous year, according to figures released yesterday by the Central Statistics Office.

Growth in gross national product for 1995 was significantly lower at 7.3 per cent (7.4 per cent). The CSO has adopted new procedures in the treatment of the profits and royalty payments of foreign-owned companies.

Personal expenditure in-

creased 5.8 per cent, while Government expenditure grew 5.4 per cent. In real terms, the respective increase was 3.7 per cent and 3.0 per cent respectively.

The value of exports of goods and services increased 19.3 per cent, while the value of imports for 1995 increased 16.9 per cent.

The CSO also revealed yesterday that Ireland's current account surplus was £1,880 million in 1995, down from £1,954 million in the previous year.

Regulator warning to Ulster generators

By Christine Buckley

NORTHERN IRELAND's generators will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission unless they yield to regulatory and contractual changes that will combine to bring down electricity prices.

Douglas McDoom, electricity regulator for Northern Ireland, said prices could be reduced by 10 per cent with co-operation from the industry. Charges in Northern Ireland are 20-30 per cent higher than in the mainland UK. The charges levied by Northern Ireland Electricity, the region-

al company, will fall under regulatory curbs. But 60 per cent of the costs depend on charges made by the generators with which the company has long-term contracts.

Mr McDoom said he needed the co-operation of the industry to push through changes. Without it, he said, "the choice is between accepting a situation which is manifestly unsatisfactory with regard to price as well as anti-competitive, or asking the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to examine the industry."

US rate rise hangs in balance

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

THE Federal Reserve began a two-day meeting yesterday to discuss interest rates. Its decision is thought to be finely balanced between leaving American rates unchanged and nudging them higher to cool strong economic growth.

Early this week, a poll by Reuters showed that 27 out of 31 economists surveyed believed that rates would be left unchanged while four thought that they would be raised by a quarter point. But after two strong economic reports yesterday, two former members of the policy-making federal open market committee

(FOMC) said that the decision was now harder to call.

Wayne Angell, now chief economist at Bear Stearns, the securities house, said that the economy was gaining strength and second-quarter growth could be as much as 5 per cent and the Fed should raise rates. Richard Syron, now chairman of the American Stock Exchange, although agreeing that the decision was close, said he would leave rates unchanged if he were still on the FOMC.

Their comments came after the Commerce Department reported sales of new

homes jumped to their fastest rate in more than a decade in May in spite of higher mortgage rates. The sales rose 7.5 per cent after a gain of 5.9 per cent in April. The May rise was completely against Wall Street expectations. In addition, the Conference Board's index of leading economic indicators, designed to predict economic trends six to nine months ahead, rose 0.3 per cent in May, the fourth consecutive month in which economic activity seems to have grown.

The dollar yesterday passed the ¥110 level for the first time since January, 1994.

TOURIST RATES

| Bank | Bank | Bank | Bank | Bank | |
|--------------|--------|--------|-----------------|---------|---------|
| Buy | Sell | Buy | Sell | Buy | |
| Australia \$ | 2.08 | 1.92 | Netherlands Gld | 0.903 | 0.948 |
| Austria Sch | 17.71 | 16.21 | New Zealand \$ | 2.804 | 2.574 |
| Belgium Fr | 51.64 | 47.24 | Portugal Esc | 20.48 | 18.87 |
| Canada Cdn | 2.02 | 1.92 | S Africa Rd | 355.00 | 336.50 |
| Cyprus Cyp | 0.753 | 0.706 | Spain Ptas | 7.33 | 6.53 |
| Denmark Kr | 13.72 | 12.70 | Swiss Fr | 206.50 | 193.50 |
| Finland Mk | 7.82 | 7.27 | Sweden Kr | 10.39 | 10.19 |
| France Fr | 6.43 | 5.93 | Switzerland Fr | 2.08 | 1.98 |
| Germany Dr | 2.53 | 2.35 | Turkey Lira | 130.251 | 129.221 |
| Greece Dr | 338 | 354 | USA \$ | 1.554 | 1.524 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 12.99 | 11.99 | | | |
| Ireland Pt | 0.94 | 0.84 | | | |
| Israel Sh | 5.38 | 4.73 | | | |
| Italy Lira | 848 | 784 | | | |
| Japan Yen | 185.50 | 169.50 | | | |

Notes for small denomination bank rates only as supplied by Barclay's Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques as a class of trading yesterday.

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Inchcape

Inchcape, the international distribution group will be moving from its current address - King Street, London, SW1 - on 5 July. From the 8 July the Group's new headquarters will be at the following address:

33 Cavendish Square
London
W1M 9HF

Telephone Number: 0171 546 0022
Fax Number: 0171 546 0010

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of London Stock Exchange Limited ("the London Stock Exchange"). Applications have been made to the London Stock Exchange for the New Stock to be issued pursuant to the Placing and Open Offer and any New Shares issued pursuant to the Cash Exit Facility to be admitted to the Official List.

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SERIES 2

CASH EXIT FACILITY

A prospectus relating to American Opportunity Trust PLC (the "Company") dated 2 July 1996 (the "Prospectus") has been published which contains details of the Company, the Placing and the New Stock. The Prospectus is available from SBC Warburg, 1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PP and from J O Hambro & Partners Limited, 10 Park Place, London SW1A 1LP on weekdays during normal office hours until 25 July 1996. Copies are also available during normal office hours until 4 July 1996 from the Company Announcements Office of the London Stock Exchange.

Words and expressions defined in the Prospectus have the same meaning in this advertisement.

This advertisement does not constitute an offer or invitation to any person to subscribe for or purchase securities of the Company.

3 July 1996

مركز الأمل

□ Vital warnings that were disregarded □ Facing up to the Ofgas onslaught □ 'Independent' directors who may not be

DIY approach to Wickes accounts

□ HAD a lowly buying clerk not been sacked from the Dutch office of Wickes a couple of weeks ago, the DIY chain would still be one of the stock market's best regarded performers, admired for its ability to defy gravity in a disastrous area of retail.

It is, after all, only weeks since WH Smith handed over £63.5 million to get out of the DIY business. There is a strong temptation to blame City analysts, who are supposed to be able to spot these disasters coming. Unfair, because it is now emerging that the analysts did just that, and were given the brush-off. Specifically, they asked about the accounting treatment of various payments by suppliers to the company. The reply came that these were treated "conservatively". The truth is clearly the opposite.

As you browse the shelves at your local supermarket, such big retailers might seem the purest form of free market. Fierce rivalry on the high street means that only the best goods, and the most competitively priced, fight their way onto the shelves, surely? Quite wrong. Retailing is a jungle, and all manner of underhand tricks and near-bribes are used to push the suppliers' product onto those shelves. The problem comes in knowing how to take those payments into profits.

Wickes seems to have taken the least conservative route while claiming the opposite, and this was widely suspected. Consider this quotation from an unnamed DIY goods manufacturer in *DIY Week*: "I wonder if Wickes shareholders are aware," he writes, "that part of this year's profit is a contribution for sales anticipated through to 1996." The date is November 1994.

There is not much an analyst can do if he is being misled, deliberately or because management themselves are kept in the dark, save to move the shares' stock market rating down a few notches to take into account the uncertainty. Take Polly Peck. No one could work out how the margins being boasted of were being achieved; this was because they were not.

Two questions now are central. We know the mis-statement of profits goes back as far as 1990. Why, given the suspicions referred to above, was it not picked up by the then finance director, Trevor Llewellyn, now at Caradon, or the auditors, Arthur Andersen? Mr Llewellyn is not answering questions directly, but Caradon's public relations firm says on his behalf that he had no suspicions up to the end of 1994. He presumably checked out the analysts' doubts and found they were unfounded. He was wrong. Why?

The second is the position of suppliers. Wickes has about 200 of these, and as many as 60 are under investigation. Did they collude in the cover-up, in return for their products being displayed on Wickes's shelves?

This financial disaster goes beyond the affairs of a small and spectacularly successful retail chain, because the practices it used are so common throughout the retail trade. It is about time other retailers answered some searching questions.

Gas needs to fight on two fronts

□ SHARES in British Gas have scarcely recovered since they were hit by neo-socialist twin price cut proposals from Ofgas. At 180p, they trade about 14 per cent lower in real terms than when shares were first sold to the



public a decade ago. No wonder the board complains that it is under "unprecedented regulatory pressure". Yesterday's formal response was to Ofgas plans for British Gas Trading, which supplies gas to households. They last into the next century, long after the company has lost its monopoly and reflect the regulator's strategy for attacking the enemy.

Ofgas plans to cut profits on existing supply business with a price formula that assumes costs are reduced faster than the Monopolies and Mergers Commission thought was sensible in 1994. At the same time, Ofgas wants to hog-tie the charging structure to make it as difficult as possible for Gas to resist loss of

market to new competitors.

The combination of cutting profits on existing sales and ensuring that sales will fall seems to leave this child of the coming demerged British Gas with nowhere to go but down. TransCo, the infrastructure monopoly that will form the bones of the other wing, faces a similar prospect with a vast projected cut in profit and tariffs designed to stop it benefiting from increased gas sales.

This holds out the prospect of a continuing downward spiral of costs, customer satisfaction, employee and management morale and returns to shareholders. To stem or reverse this, British Gas has little option but to fight all the way, certainly to the MMC, on supply as well as the more important TransCo front.

Assuming that tactic has only limited success, the board needs to concentrate on working for shareholders rather than itself. Since investors will own two businesses with low returns, high risks and little upside, the top priority is to get as much of their money out as possible. For TransCo that means

replacing equity with loans. The trading business should end up as part of a multi-utility such as the generator PowerGen.

Raising questions in the boardroom

□ COMPLYING with the letter of the Cadbury and Greenbury committee recommendations is all very well. But according to Manifest, the agency set up to promote shareholder activism by institutional investors, much of British industry is merely paying lip service to current ideas of good corporate governance.

Manifest has found that many of the "independent" directors on the boards of corporate Britain are not quite as independent as they seem. There are a whole raft of former directors, or partners of the company's lawyers, or delegates from its accountants or the merchant bank or even the odd family retainer turning up as non-executives. Whether these people really question the chief executive on anything but the timing of lunch has to be open to debate.

Pennington's favourite example is the property group Great Portland Estates. Norman Ford joined the board as an independent director in 1991. He just happened to have been company secretary since the company was formed in 1957. When he started the group's finance director, John Whiteley, was not yet born.

Mr Ford sits on both the audit and remuneration committees, where he polices Richard Peskin, the group's chairman and managing director (no splitting of roles here). The two have shared a boardroom since 1968.

Good corporate governance is designed to ensure companies perform well. Great Portland shares have, as it happens, underperformed the market by a third over the past two years.

Room with a phew

□ EVER wondered why you always end up in the room overlooking the municipal waste tip on business trips? A survey from a hotels group has uncovered the hidden hand that controls the £2.5 billion business travel market. Three out of four bosses rely entirely on their secretaries for travel arrangements. And your secretary, as those polled admitted, is being bribed by travel firms with treats such as tickets to Wimbledon and the Chelsea Flower Show.

Berkeley gives election warning

By PAUL DURMAN

BERKELEY GROUP, one of Britain's best-regarded house-builders, yesterday said that the uncertainty caused by the forthcoming general election could cost the building industry the equivalent of two months' sales.

With turnover running at about £30 million a month, Berkeley is preparing for the possible loss of £60 million of sales. Tony Pidgley, managing director, said: "There will be a two-month period when a large percentage of the (house-buying) public will sit on their hands."

But Berkeley expects any hiatus in the housing market recovery to be short-lived. Roger Lewis, finance director, said a temporary fall in sales could throw up huge opportunities to buy land cheaply, as other house-builders scale back their purchases. Berkeley is well-placed to take advantage since it has no borrowings and, after its January rights issue, net cash of £35.6 million.

Berkeley, which mainly builds expensive "executive" homes, was reporting a 15.3 per cent rise in annual pre-tax profits to £43.4 million. Sales for the year to April 30 were 18 per cent ahead at £334 million. Earnings rose by 10.8 per cent

to 34.8p a share. The number of properties sold increased from 1,411 to 1,560, with the average price rising from £190,000 to £208,000.

This year has also begun well, with reservations 20 per cent ahead of last year.

Mr Pidgley said he did not believe a Labour Government would be bad for the housing market, at least not initially. He said, judging from the opinion polls, "there will be a certain amount of 'feel-good' factor which does not seem to be there with the Tories".

While Berkeley is seeing solid rises in house prices, particularly in London, the company sets much more store by building the right properties with features people want. Mr Pidgley said: "If it's in the right location and it's what people want, people will pay for it. It's not price sensitive."

Among the standard features are double-glazing, smoke alarms, hi-fi wiring and cast iron baths. Security features are also increasingly important.

Berkeley is paying a final dividend of 6.2p, increasing the total payout by 9.6 per cent to 8.5p a share.

Times, page 30

Profits hit new heights at Atkins

By FRASER NELSON

WS ATKINS, the international engineering group set for a £200 million flotation this month, returned record profits of £22 million before tax and exceptional items for the year to March 31, a 20 per cent rise.

The group, which issued its pathfinder prospectus yesterday, lifted sales 20 per cent to £236 million, helped by a six-week contribution of £4.4 million from Faithful & Gould, the construction consultants, bought in February for £21 million. The acquisition of Cadac and PowerTrack, the railway infrastructure groups, led to £3.5 million in restructuring expenses.

Atkins first planned to float in 1990, but pulled out six days before the placing when Iraq invaded Kuwait. It was then expected to be valued at £50 million, a quarter of what it is expected to reach now. Dealings are set to start on July 25.

Marston's in branded pubs drive

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

MARSTON, Thompson & Evershed, the pub and brewing company, said yesterday that it would be looking to build up a series of branded pub chains.

Marston's made its first foray into that end of the market when it bought the Pitcher and Piano chain last week for £20 million. It hopes to double the number of Pitcher outlets to 14 by the end of this year and aims to expand its branded interests further, either through acquisition or by converting houses in its existing estate.

Marston's unveiled an 11 per cent rise in full-year pre-tax profits to £27 million. Beer volumes increased by 3.4 per cent with a 14 per cent rise in off-trade sales. Retail division profits rose 25 per cent boosted by strong food sales. The total dividend rises 11 per cent to 7.3p. An unchanged final of 4.8p is payable on August 10.

Inspirations slides

By PAUL DURMAN

INSPIRATIONS, the tour operator, yesterday unveiled plans to raise £12.1 million and buy a skiing holidays firm. The company also announced a sharp increase in losses to £13.2 million before tax, from £3.6 million, for the half-year to the end of March.

The fund raising, via a rights issue of convertible preference shares, will enable Inspirations to pay up to £1.75 million for Skiers World, a

Cardiff firm that provides holidays to the US and Canada for schools. The new money will also enable the company to reduce the cost of its £18 million bonding requirement. First-half sales rose 95 per cent to £132.1 million. This year's booking levels are 5 per cent ahead of last year's and holiday prices are also higher. The interim dividend is up 11.4 per cent to 0.78p a share. The shares fell 4p to 125p.

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THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Grants go for a double

SIR ALISTAIR GRANT was in a celebratory mood yesterday — as was his wife. On the day that the Argyll Group changed its name to Safeway, Sir Alistair, who founded the supermarket group 19 years ago, said "good-bye" to his staff and stood down as chairman. Meanwhile, Lady Grant's 14-year-old horse, called *Compass*, came first in the Working Hunters Race at the Royal Show.

Mexican waif

ANOTHER new investment trust, another "original" theme for Schroder to sell it on the back of. This week it's Schroder Emerging Countries Fund. What a shameful opportunity for the fund managers to illustrate their latest project with glossy photographs of a hungry-looking Orphan Annie-like figure, and an unnamed vegetable market. According to a Schroder spokeswoman: "I think they were taken in Mexico, but the photographer can't remember exactly where. I should imagine one market in Mexico looks much like another."



'Mexican orphan'

Water on brain

BARRIE WELLS, the bespectacled managing director of Prospero Direct, the direct insurance-selling arm of Provident Insurance, is brimming with new ideas after a trip to Japan. Always on the lookout for non-smoking clean-living "careful people", Mr Wells was excited to discover a masterful Japanese invention — a 14 portable zebra crossing. Mr Wells also fell for a giant parasol that the Japanese fit to the roof of their cars in a bid to protect them from the sun. On his travels, he spotted something that he thinks the chairman of Yorkshire Water might well find useful — an upside down umbrella worn as a hat and attached via a tube to a handbag to collect rainwater.

Lloyd's on form

LLOYD'S names are working themselves into a terrible lather. Within days they must fill in two colourful proxy forms, having been sent a 16-page guide on how to use the enclosed documentation, and a covering letter from David Rowland, Lloyd's of London chairman, indicating which way members should vote on the proposed recovery plan. The yellow proxy form, which relates to the ordinary general meeting on July 15 and the vote on special contributions, and the grey proxy form, which relates to the extra-ordinary general meeting on the same day and the four resolutions tabled, have caused much confusion. Breathe deep, and take heed of the covering letter — think "yes" for yellow, and "no" for grey.

CITY diners at that favourite watering hole, Bill Bentley's, were aghast to see a mouse weave its way between their tables. Between squeaks and squeals, a waitress at the Old Broad Street restaurant said the health inspector was a regular visitor. Referring to the mouse, she added: "It's one of the family."

MORAG PRESTON

Business agencies focus on their position in the future

Calls for support by small firms are likely to continue, says Philip Bassett

At the British Chambers of Commerce annual conference, which closes today, and at the annual gathering of the business-led Training and Enterprise Councils, which opens tomorrow, both a few miles from each other in Birmingham, political jousting is the order of the day. Indeed, the BCC's own promotional material portrays it as "politicians court business" at its conference. And indeed Tony Blair is speaking at a conference today. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, did so yesterday and Gillian Shephard, Education Secretary, will speak at a business conference tomorrow and Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, the day after.

Business is increasingly interested in the coming election. If only because for the first time since 1979, more than one side has the ability to win. But business is also interested in what governments, of any political hue, can do for business. Not in the old sense of picking winners, which Labour will formally abandon tomorrow when Mr Blair publishes *Road to the Manifesto*, a policy document, but in what governments can do to help business to prosper.

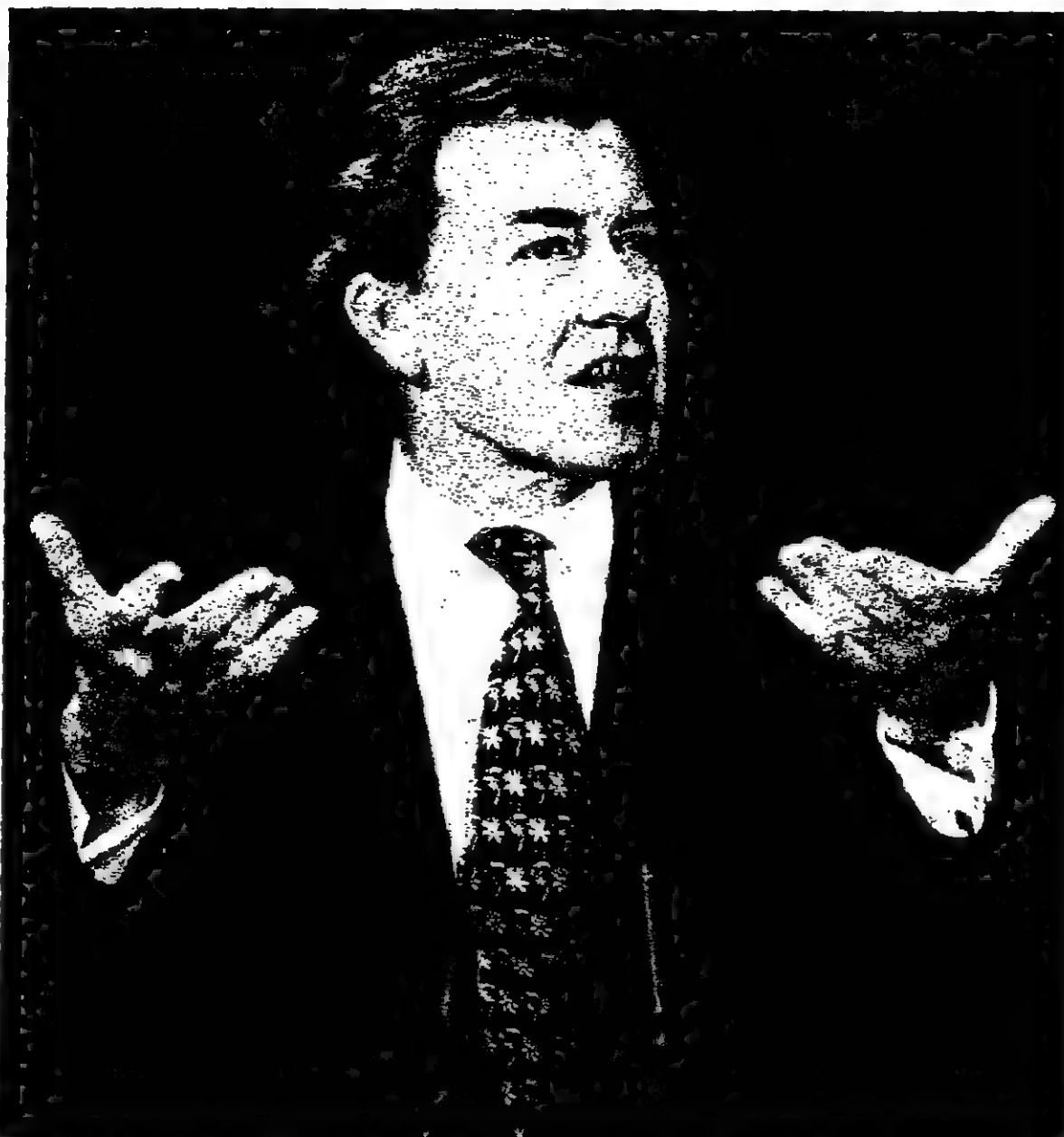
Business Links, the one-stop shops for business services originally conceived by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, who set out his own view on industrial competitiveness in a lecture on manufacturing last night, fuse this week's BCC and Tec conferences.

Business Links — private-sector partnerships between local councils, chambers of commerce and Tecs — have grown remarkably since the first two opened in September 1993. By April last year, there were 27. They now number 81, with 228 outlets around the country, covering 96 per cent of all VAT-registered businesses in Britain.

The number of businesses using them has more than doubled over the past year, with almost 90,000 making use of them in the first three months of this year — nearly 7,000 different businesses every week, or almost 11 per cent of all businesses. Figures from the DTI show most use them for consultancy purposes, followed by business diagnostics.

Yet, their public profile is relatively low. A computer scan of the contents of 28 newspapers over the past year shows them trailing other business bodies, especially the CBI. The Government is trying to counter this with a £2.5 million national advertising campaign for BLs, using 2,000 poster sites around the country last month and this, with pictures of butterflies, swans and oak trees and the messages caterpillars, ugly ducklings and acorns wanted. They have some way to go. The Government heard during a consultation exercise from one small company: "Many small businesses still have not heard of the Business Link network and most do not know what it is or what it is supposed to do." Another said: "Those that are aware of Business Link think the quality of service is inconsistent across the network." And another said: "Most owner managers think that Business Links are just another government initiative and doubt that they will last long."

Ministers insist that among companies which have used them, customer satisfaction is high, with ratings of more than 90 per cent. A company such as LGG Charlesworth, a plastics maker in Malvern employing 75, believes that advice from its local Link has helped its business. So too does Pastaking, a West Country pasta caterer, which has seen its production treble since using its local



Ian Lang wants to see programmes that are designed and delivered by business support organisations

Link. Or Chillingham Associates, an eight-person business producing items such as the racks from its Jarrow base.

Business Links like to promote such endorsements. But the Government was less comfortable with the findings of an internal DTI study — now published in full after being reported in *The Times* — particularly because of its sharp criticism by Business Link leaders of the Government's handling of the system. Some described their financing arrangements from the Government as ridiculous.

Mr Lang emphasises the importance to business of local initiatives such as the Links, telling yesterday's BCC conference that they "are not creatures of a central plan". But Barbara Roche, Shadow Small Firms Minister, says: "The setting-up of Business Links has been totally mismanaged by the Government." Labour, in its forthcoming industrial policy document, says it will refocus the network.

Business Links will, however, receive broad cross-party support in a report due to be published this month by the all-party Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee. MPs travelled round the country when asking evidence, and a draft version of the report now being examined by MPs on the committee endorses Business Links, although the final report will make suggestions for improvements in their operation.

Birmingham's Business Link, sitting roughly halfway between the BCC and the Tec conferences, has been operating for some time. It offers 250 separate business support services, and says that, since opening almost three years ago, it

has assisted almost 11,000 of Birmingham's 27,000 companies, affecting almost a quarter of a million workers. Alun Dow, its director, said: "Success to date has been very satisfying. But there is more work to be done. We are constantly seeking new ways to reach the target market, and do what we set out to do — help their businesses grow."

The Government agrees that for services to business generally, there is more work to be done. As part of last month's third White Paper on competitiveness, Mr Lang launched a radical revision of government-supplied business services, currently absorbing a budget of some £264 million, with direct support for Business Links amounting to £30 million. Mr Lang says that the purpose of the consultation paper on the design and delivery of business support is a "shift away from support activities designed to reflect government priorities towards programmes designed and delivered by business support organisations" — in reality, Business Links and Tecs — with current funding channelled into a new £200 million local competitiveness budget and a £40 million sector challenge budget. In spite of the claims that Business Links offer a one-stop shop, they, along with Tecs and chambers, not to mention the Government's own regional offices, still constitute a babel-like plethora of local advice to and service for business. Most involved in the field recognise that there is at least one agency too many, and most expect at least one to go.

Robin Geldard, outgoing BCC president, seemed almost to be throwing in

the towel yesterday. Noting that it is Tecs and Business Links that will carry forward business services, rather than chambers, he told the BCC conference: "If the chamber movement had got its act together earlier, we would not have had Tecs, we would not have had Business Links. Chambers would have been the chosen vehicle for government action."

Six Tecs and chambers have now merged, and a further 25 or so are talking seriously about it. Though they will not be debated formally, scuffling around the background of the Tec conference this week will be proposals for the future of Tecs, drawn up by Chris Humphries, Tec policy chief. These raise the prospect for the medium term of new-style local business organisation in language not wholly dissimilar from that currently being worked on by Stephen Byers, the Shadow Employment and Education Minister, for a policy document to be published by Labour in the autumn.

Tecs are raising their game. Spending £1.7 billion of public money, they have been closely scrutinised this year, and their leaders will proclaim at their conference the need for Tecs to contribute fully to policy and other social and economic debates. They will also receive a significant boost when John Monks, TUC General Secretary, announces a new union accord with Tecs, formally abandoning union suspicion of them.

Faced with competitor countries where government support for business is both extensive and well-used, companies and especially small firms in the UK are likely to continue to demand backing. And with the success of small firms in particular seen as vital to Britain's economic growth and competitiveness, governments — of whatever political persuasion — will need to supply it.

Many small businesses still have not heard of the Business Link network

programmes designed and delivered by business support organisations" — in reality, Business Links and Tecs — with current funding channelled into a new £200 million local competitiveness budget and a £40 million sector challenge budget. In spite of the claims that Business Links offer a one-stop shop, they, along with Tecs and chambers, not to mention the Government's own regional offices, still constitute a babel-like plethora of local advice to and service for business. Most involved in the field recognise that there is at least one agency too many, and most expect at least one to go.

Robin Geldard, outgoing BCC president, seemed almost to be throwing in

Comeback is beckoning for the forgotten friendly society

Sara McConnell sees self-help welfare climbing the agenda

Friendly societies are being dragged into the welfare funding debate as Labour explores the possibility of setting up a low-cost top-up pension fund to encourage more people to make their own provision.

Both sides of the political divide have now come to the painful conclusion that tinkering at the edges of the existing welfare system is no longer enough and that radical rethinking is necessary, particularly in the costliest areas, of pensions, long-stay care and support for the elderly. Inevitably, discussion focuses on how the private sector can play a larger role without being allowed to force up costs beyond people's reach or sell them unsuitable policies.

Under the Labour vision, funds paid into these pensions would be invested by insurance companies and other private providers. Individuals would be able to identify their own pension "pot" in another step towards Labour's goal of a "stakeholder" society.

Therein lies the opportunity for friendly societies. Last month saw the publication of a report, *Welfare, Mutualism and Self Help*, written by Professor George Yarrow, an economics fellow at Herford College, Oxford, and commissioned by the Association of Friendly Societies.

Professor Yarrow argues that friendly societies have a major role to play in providing benefits at low cost to top up a "minimally acceptable" level of State provision. He envisages a "social contract" between the State and individuals. "The state will guarantee a certain level of social protection in return for guarantees that the individual will make some minimum contributions to his or her own future needs," he says. Individuals would have their own "pot" of benefit money that they could transfer at various

stages of their lives to another provider.

Self-help and mutualism are recurring themes in the report and are echoed by the friendly society movement. Marion Poole, general secretary of the Association of Friendly Societies, says: "We are against co-opting, corporate thinking and for individualism."

An enhanced role for friendly societies in a new look welfare system would give them a much needed boost. They spent years in the doldrums after being all but killed off by Nigel Lawson in 1984. Legislation in 1992 gave them some new powers, to offer general insurance and take deposits. However, regulations limit tax-exempt contributions to their policies to £25 a month. Giving them a pre-eminent role in benefit provision would, argues Professor Yarrow, restore their pre-Beveridge role as "mini welfare systems" administering State sickness benefit.

However, the societies have not had an untarnished history. Members of the Lancashire & Yorkshire will not forget its ill-judged venture into property investment through a low-risk fund not meant to hold property. Others have been criticised for high charges and poor performance. Marion Poole argues that the societies are more strictly regulated than ever before, but they are regulated under the same regime that let mis-selling of pensions grow into a scandal.

On top of this, Professor Yarrow's view that friendly societies, as mutuals, are "more likely than profit-seeking companies to provide support based on need as well as strict entitlement" may raise eyebrows among those on the receiving end of strictly commercial conduct by mutual building societies and life companies, as well as by friendly societies.



Nigel Lawson proved deaf to friendly societies' wishes

BUSINESS LETTERS

Time for MMC inquiry and more radical proposals on TransCo regulation

From Mr Roger C. Turner
Sir, Tempus was correct to say (June 15) that British Gas's response to Ofgas's proposals for TransCo's price control failed to address the substantive issues. Moreover, neither BG nor Mr Philip Rogerson (Business Letters, June 19) have, to date, come forward with any detailed proposals of their own other than an apparent wish that the current regulatory approach be continued.

The 1993 MMC report, on which much of Mr Rogerson's argument would appear to rely, has become regarded by many in the industry as appropriate only in the context of the rather limited experience of regulation at that time. The report addressed an integrated BG and, in part due to paucity of data, was unable to develop a cash flow analysis, being obliged instead to rely

on accounting data. Experience so far has shown that using accounting depreciation as a basis for TransCo price regulation gives the monopoly excessive advance payments. These have already amounted to £2 billion and will, if the present control is continued, add a further £3 billion. Whilst these monies are collected from TransCo's customers to fund the future renewal of the system, there is no obligation for BG to dedicate this cash for this purpose and customers could therefore pay twice.

Time has now moved on and so has the regulation of all the privatised utilities. TransCo now has its own accounts, and much more detailed evidence is available about its costs, revenues and forecasts. More than 15 major TransCo customers, including

ourselves, recently completed an extensive work on the TransCo review, and a full report by our consultants, Arthur Andersen, has been lodged with the regulator.

The report recommends a revenue sufficiency approach to regulation (a mechanism used by other regulated industries) which would secure not only the funding of all the necessary capital expenditure, but also a 40 per cent reduction in TransCo prices. Ofgas's proposals do not go as far as we would wish as the regulator is still proposing to allow TransCo to collect revenue well in advance of its actual expenditure forecasts.

Ofgas has said that the evidence for much tougher proposals is compelling, but that they worked hard to "get the numbers up". BG's reluctance to accept anything other

than the continuation of the current regime is disappointing and, we believe, unsustainable as the weight of reasoned argument is clearly against them. We believe that a further MMC inquiry would take account of all available evidence and reach a conclusion that greater price reductions should be demanded from the TransCo monopoly. Many in the industry, including the prime consumer representative, the Gas Consumer Council, would also look to such an inquiry to address the structural problems of TransCo, problems that can be solved through the creation of TransCo as a separate legal entity.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER TURNER
(Managing Director,
United Gas Company Ltd,
21 Tothill Street, SW1)

Price of water

From Elizabeth M Balsom
Sir, It is, of course, Tempus's remit to look at life from the perspective of maximising shareholder advantage, but the purity of predators' balance sheets is of little concern to the hard-pressed consumers of South West Water ("Paying the water bill", June 21).

My octogenarian mother lives in a small bungalow in Plymouth. For this privilege she must hand over to South West Water £430 a year. The falls in interest rates, which are so widely applauded, have slashed the income from her savings, and her water bill now represents about 5 per cent of her gross income.

Devon and Cornwall are not affluent counties. The price of one of life's most basic commodities is a constant subject of conversation. I know many people for whom the bills are a worry. For those whose supplies have been disrupted or who have had to boil their water, they are a disgrace. A 10 per cent cut in bills would be a relief, but not that much.

A glance at the psephological map tells me that the price of water in the South West could be the thing that sends John Major to the back benches.
Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH M. BALSOM,
16 Chalcroft Road, SW15.

Woolwich and John Stewart well matched

From Mr Dave Hawkins
Sir, I think you are in for a surprise!
Your Pennington column ("Weapons in the Woolwich arsenal", June 25) seeks to damn the appointment of John Stewart to the top position at the Woolwich with faint praise.

Having worked for the society over many years, while under the guidance of Peter Robinson, and having dealt

with John Stewart, I can see why — to the naive outside observer — the sea-change in top management looks like a surrender to the takeover forces of the shark-infested financial world. However, while Peter Robinson's leadership was inspired and charismatic, I believe that John Stewart's approach will prove all the

cheap sceptics — those capable of only watching other people load the financial bricks on to the hods — to be totally misdirected.

John Stewart has the ability to take the massive strengths of the Woolwich into a much more powerful plc, without having to compromise its status or stature. He is practical, full of common

sense and imbued with the spirit of the society — all traits that can be seen as weaknesses to the casual observer. But much more than that, his integrity is beyond dispute. He has the total support of staff and his resolution is total.

Yours faithfully,
DAVE HAWKINS,
Hawkins Innovation Net-
work, 18th Floor,
St Alphage House,
Fore Street, EC2.

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INSPIRATIONS plc

(Incorporated and registered in England and Wales No. 2817539)

RIGHTS ISSUE SPONSORED BY BEKSON GREGORY LIMITED

of 12,670,473 7.7 per cent (nom)

Convertible Preference Shares of 20p each to be issued at 100p per share

Share capital immediately following the Rights Issue

| Authorised | | Issued and fully paid | |
|------------|------------|--|------------|
| Amount | Number | Amount | Number |
| £5,280,000 | 52,800,000 | £1,167,025.80 | 11,670,473 |
| £2,540,000 | 25,400,000 | £2,540,000.00 | 25,400,000 |
| | | 17.7p per cent (nom) convertible convertible preference shares | |

The principal activities of Inspirations plc are tour operating, aviation and retail travel agents.

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Victoria House
Consort Way
Hareley
Surrey RH6 7AF

3 July 1996

THE TIMES ON-TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

مَكْرًا مِنَ الْاِصْل

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JULY 3 1996

Equities mark time

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High Low Company Price % Chg. % PE

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|-----|----------|-------|--------|------|
| 55 | 54 | Heineken | 181.5 | +1.5 | 17.1 |
| 55 | 54 | Heineken | 181.5 | +1.5 | 17.1 |
| 55 | 54 | Heineken | 181.5 | +1.5 | 17.1 |
| 55 | 54 | Heineken | 181.5 | +1.5 | 17.1 |
| 55 | 54 | Heineken | 181.5 | +1.5 | 17.1 |

BANKS

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|-------|-------|----------|-------|--------|------|
| 31.10 | 31.05 | Barclays | 31.10 | +0.05 | 12.2 |
| 31.10 | 31.05 | Barclays | 31.10 | +0.05 | 12.2 |
| 31.10 | 31.05 | Barclays | 31.10 | +0.05 | 12.2 |
| 31.10 | 31.05 | Barclays | 31.10 | +0.05 | 12.2 |
| 31.10 | 31.05 | Barclays | 31.10 | +0.05 | 12.2 |

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

BUILDING MATERIALS

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

CHEMICALS

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

DISTRIBUTORS

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

ELECTRICITY

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

HEALTHCARE

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

INSURANCE

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

LEISURE & HOTELS

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

MINING

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

OIL & GAS

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

OTHER FINANCIAL

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

PROPERTY

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

RETAILERS, FOOD

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

RETAILERS, GENERAL

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

SUPPORT SERVICES

| High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg. | % PE |
|------|------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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| 1.10 | 1.09 | Asahi | 1.10 | +0.01 | 12.2 |
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The rise and rise of the male secretary

After a century of female domination, computer-literate men are beginning to wrest the job back, reports Jennai Cox

From ancient Rome to the late 19th century, secretaries were men. Now, after a mere century of female domination, men are beginning to wrest the job back. While the typewriter transformed the position of status into "women's work", the computer revolution and the enhanced secretarial role are making it more attractive to men. They now fill more than one in five temping vacancies with Office Angels, the recruitment consultants.

Only 1 per cent of the secretarial population is male, but the numbers are up by a fifth on five years ago. A study by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation says that as the job market shrinks, men will turn to female industries for work. Pamela Meadows, editor of *Work Out - or Work In?*, says: "Men will have to make a psychological leap to get themselves over the idea of what is women's work. Employers will have to come to terms with seeing male applicants for what

have always been female jobs." The mainly male interest in computers has meant that men have acquired keyboard skills. They are realising that these are marketable tools. Employment agencies are therefore persuading more and more men to try the secretarial role because it is a more lucrative and satisfying way of making money than traditional male temping. One example is Joe Humphries, 47. Bored with accounting, Mr Humphries tried secretarial work and is happier in his job and earns more money. Recruitment agencies report a significant upturn in the number of men willing to fill vacancies. Once they have tried it, many accept full-time job offers. Paul Jacobs, regional director for Office Angels, says the opportunities for men with IT skills are huge.

"Those willing to do the job can be very successful, and I must say, they are very popular," he says. Clients express pleasant surprise

when told to expect a male secretary and none has been refused. As both sexes become equally computer literate and the gender barrier disappears, Mr Jacobs predicts that the numbers will rise further. The present graduate population is discovering the job almost by accident, but the next generation is actively considering a secretarial-type career. The young man enrolling at college with the intention of looking for a secretarial job is a relatively new phenomenon. Because of rising demand Pitman Training last year launched Office Skills for Men and both Guildford and St James's secretarial colleges report growing numbers of men. Paul Cavendish, 26, a former ambulance serviceman, is starting a three-month course in the hope of becoming a legal secretary. Shock would have been the reaction from employers five years ago to the idea of a secretary being male, but a changing workplace is slowly affecting attitudes. Dedication, reliability and confidence are among the benefits men bring to the job, a survey by Reed Personnel Services revealed last January. Respondents who had no experience of male secretaries indicated a willingness to try them out. Most



David Woodcock started secretarial work between acting jobs

felt that with the expected increase in the next ten years of jobs requiring computer skills, the rise of the male secretary is inevitable. "At the moment employers can still make quick assumptions about men," says Katie Nicholson of

Reed. "Skills and attitude are what matter. We find again and again that once employers have experience of a male secretary the barriers are broken down."

Peter Bull's boss was initially reluctant to take him on. But now when the 49-year-old, who has been a secretary since the 1960s, is asked why he does women's work, he says: "It's people's work. Very challenging and rewarding."

Men are also discovering that the job can be a useful route into industry. Jamie Althorp, 24, did temping after graduating and said it was a good way of getting his

David Woodcock, 42, who started secretarial work between acting jobs, finds male secretaries are given more responsibility as their role widens. "The job is getting more skilled and once you prove you can do it, that carries you through any negative perceptions," he says.

Too many companies, however, are unhappy with the idea of asking a male secretary to make the tea, and while a lack of candidates prevents numbers rising more quickly, so too do old-fashioned attitudes. Earlier this year Alan Robinson, a typist, who lost his case

for sexual discrimination after being turned away by a secretarial recruitment agency, said he wanted to highlight the equality issue and help stereotypes to disappear. He faces an uphill task, says the Equal Opportunities Commission.

This year, for the first time, the EOC is receiving more complaints of discrimination from men than from women, among them many who have been refused office jobs on the ground of sex. According to the EOC, some employers are still looking at sex not skills when considering an application form.

Kamlesh Bahl, the chairwoman of the EOC, finds the deeply entrenched divides about male and female jobs disturbing. "Men's situation is no different to that faced by women few years ago. But by highlighting their plight we will move on to sensible debate and the gender war will eventually disappear."

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FILM

Native Indian culture and Blake poems? It could only be a movie by Jim Jarmusch



VISUAL ART 1

Back to basics: the Royal Academy Schools return to an emphasis on traditional drawing skills

THE TIMES ARTS



VISUAL ART 2

...and the Royal Academy is also introducing children to the first skills of life-drawing



TOMORROW

Has Tom Cruise pumped new life into Mission: Impossible? Read Geoff Brown's verdict

Gone way out, far-out West

Michael Church on how William Blake gave Jim Jarmusch a hand with his new film

Funny how William Blake keeps forcing his way into the general consciousness. Each generation makes its discovery. There was a vogue in the Twenties, another with the Beat poets in the Fifties, and another with the psychedelic rockers of the Seventies. That he should take centre-stage in Jim Jarmusch's film *Dead Man* — where a Wild West "William Blake", aka Johnny Depp, meets an Indian who delivers aphorisms from *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* — seems merely par for the course.

But Blake was not Jarmusch's starting point. In *Dead Man* a Candide-like Depp forsakes turn-of-the-century New York for a frontier life, and then crosses that frontier to live, and die, among Native Americans. The starting point was Jarmusch's lifelong fascination with Indian culture. Blake came into the frame while Jarmusch was, as he thought, taking time off from his script.

"To clear my head, I thought I'd better read something totally unrelated, and Blake seemed perfect," Jarmusch says. "But I immediately found these incredible connections to the stuff I'd just been writing. The eagle never lost so much time as when he submitted to learn from the crow. I thought: am I just tired, or am I hallucinating? Then all the resonance of Blake flooded my mind. I

opened the door, and in walked this damn visionary poet."

A little while later, someone even more fundamental walked in. Jarmusch had started life as a singer with a psychedelic rock group, and always makes music the cornerstone of his films. *Mystery Train*, for example, is permeated not only by the sound of its ghostly hero Elvis Presley,

speaks very directly, very emotionally through it. But then I thought, he's a rock star and I don't know him. I'll never get him to do it."

He did get him, but the process was suitably bizarre. Young and his group Crazy Horse happened to be playing an Indian benefit not far from where *Dead Man* was shooting in Arizona; Jarmusch and his crew went to listen.

Disregarding warnings that Young was in no mood to be pestered, Jarmusch went backstage to plead his case, and was told he could send a rough-cut which might — or might not — draw a response. He sent one; there was a dismaying long silence; then the capricious star suddenly rang to say yes. There would be no need for a backing group. Young would do the whole thing himself.

"Neil simply asked me for a map of where I wanted music in the film. We set him up in a San Francisco warehouse with his guitars, a pump organ, and a detuned piano, and let him react to the screen the way musicians used to with silent movies. The only thing he insisted on was that the film should be on account the whole thing straight through three times, and spliced the best takes together."

The resulting work is by any standards extraordinary. Initially we see, in close-up, locomotive pistons in a swirl of steam; what we hear is the jagged clangour of an electric



Film director Jim Jarmusch: "My job is to stay on the periphery of things. If everyone liked my work, I'd reconsider my choice of career"

guitar. Depp is being borne off to the West on a train — and on the wings of music. At the beginning of the film the guitar is only heard in brief bursts — like a door being opened and closed — but by the end its plangent sound seems to fill the screen.

American critics dismissing *Dead Man* as a cinematic sleeping pill have been

drowned out by admirers hailing it as a tragicomic masterpiece. "My job is to stay on the periphery of things," Jarmusch says. "If everyone liked my work, I'd reconsider my choice of career."

But every film must have its soundtrack CD, and *Dead Man* is no exception. Jarmusch's contempt for mer-

chandising spin-offs — "music bought and sold by the yard" — was compounded by Young's determination to make this first release on his new record label sound as different as possible from a conventional album. So he created a free-associative collage in which his guitar merged with bits of dialogue taken from an early tape of

the film (and excised later), plus Depp reading Blake's poem, *I went to the garden of love* (not in the film), plus the roar of the sea (ditto), plus the sound of Young's 1949 Lincoln revving up (and this for a film in which everyone rides horses).

"When I first heard it, I was shocked," says Jarmusch. "But Neil said, 'Just forget

your film, and listen', so I did. And then I thought it was amazing. But I got him back with the video he commissioned from me to launch the record. I used the one piece of music from the film which he had not included on his record. Quits."

● *Dead Man* opens on Friday. The soundtrack is available on Vapor Records

VISUAL ART: Isabel Carlisle and (below right) Hilary Finch paint two pictures of the Royal Academy's new, and old, passion

Drawn to a neglected essential

Things are buzzing at the Royal Academy Schools, the art school at the back of the Royal Academy. It's the end of term, and first and second-year students have moved out of the 19th-century Smirke studios to allow the third years to hang, install or arrange their work for the Final Year Show. At the same time two enterprising students have been selling tickets for two debates they have organised on contemporary art, featuring international artists.

The Royal Academy Schools is the oldest art school in the country. Founded by George III in 1768, for many years this "well-regulated School or Academy of Design, for the use of the students in the Arts", plus the annual exhibition that we now know as the Summer Exhibition, alone constituted the Royal Academy.

Among past students were Turner, Blake, Constable, Millais and Rossetti and, unlike other art schools that threw their plaster casts of antique statues out in the 1960s (and are now regretting it), the Academy Schools has a whole corridor of them. It all adds up to a weight of achievement and tradition that could be seen as suffocating by art students today.

Last October Leonard McComb was the Royal Academician elected Keeper of the RA Schools. Although he has taught at the Schools part-time for some years, this is the end of his first year as head of teaching. Last November he presided over the reopening of the Schools after a programme of internal works that included the restoration of the historic life-drawing room, with its two life-drawing benches and semicircular wooden benches and edges, and the creation of a new sculpture yard.

McComb's own training included a postgraduate course at the Slade School of Art in the 1950s. "Men and women students had separate life rooms then and there was a strong emphasis on teaching people to draw," he says. "In the 1960s photography replaced drawing and now there is a whole generation of people who don't know how to draw."

The teaching at the Academy Schools has become more formal since McComb arrived. All Royal Academy students of painting are now expected to study anatomy,



Back to basics: Leonard McComb, Keeper of the Royal Academy Schools, in the life class

and drawing from the model, in their first year.

McComb is quick to point out, though, that this is not narrow traditionalism. "There is no system or house style, but in the first year we provide a background of study from which each student can develop," he says.

Life drawing is central to this. "Because the drawing process is one of selection and decision-making, students engaged in drawing can subsequently make all sorts of practical art and design decisions," McComb says.

The students, both of painting and of sculpture, are all postgraduates. They are well aware of the differences between the various London art schools — conceptual artists don't apply to the academy. Those who want to learn to paint or sculpt, with some printmaking on the side, do.

Mark Reynolds, a first-year, says: "I love having the life room there if I want to go and use it. Also it's great having the Cork Street galleries and the White Cube gallery [which shows the latest in contemporary art] just around the corner."

Others talk about how supportive their fellow students are and how they are in and out of each others' studios the whole time. The Royal Academy's own exhibitions are used for teaching: when the Poussin

exhibition was on, students were in the galleries from 6am making copies. With only 48 painting students and 10 sculpture students, the place has the atmosphere of a large family. The porter, John Nunn, also teaches photography.

When the Royal Academy was founded it was intended that the proceeds from the annual exhibition should fund the art school and pay the tuition fees of the students. This arrangement came to an end in 1978 and now the academy simply gives the Schools a lump sum — about £150,000 this year.

The fees are £6,400 a year, but almost all students have the costs met by the Department for Education and private bursaries. Time Out, the listings magazine, joined a long list of sponsors when it announced last week that it was giving a scholarship of £6,500 a year for three years. There are also travel scholarships and the Schools give students £110 per term for materials.

McComb approves of the low-key approach that the Academy Schools take towards marketing their students in an outside world ruled by the vagaries of artistic fashion. Having taught at Goldsmiths, the school that produced, among other lumi-

naries, the 1995 Turner Prize-winner, Damien Hirst, McComb is well aware of the pressure on other schools to emulate Goldsmiths' success in enabling students to catapult their works straight from degree shows into commercial galleries.

"Unlike Goldsmiths, which trains students to sell their personality and intentions, we train them to work better," he says. "Some students mature over a long period of time and don't want to have an exhibition straight away."

"At the academy, education is directed towards the particular needs of each student. Because we encourage as many points of view as possible the potential for development is limitless. I am all for self-expression, but you need an input of visual experiences too."

Nina Murdoch, a third-year with several gallery exhibitions and commissions to her name, feels that "Goldsmiths gears you up to be a celebrity. Here you learn as you go along and by picking the tutors' brains." Murdoch sold about £10,000 worth of her art to a gallery the day before the Final Year Show opened to the public.

● The Royal Academy Schools Final Year Show (supported by The Royal Bank of Scotland, Burlington House, London W1 0171-4397438), until July 12

The Royal Academy's regard for life-drawing as the very heart of a visual arts education is being carried throughout the country in a network of all-day workshops in primary and secondary schools.

The project started as a small pilot scheme in response to a demand from teachers for life-drawing workshops in relation to the Henry Moore exhibition of 1988: now 18,000 children and teachers take part.

At Hunter's Hall Junior School in Dagenham, vast sheets of gleaming white cartridge paper and long white sticks of unflaking charcoal lie on the wooden floor of the gym. Twenty-eight nine-year-olds enter in huge, paint-bespattered shirts. Their life-drawing model, Niki Baldwin, erstwhile dancer and actor, takes up her position, naked but for neutral bodystocking, cut-like on a central mat. A few words from RA artist Charlotte Steel, swift and to the point. "Sometimes we draw with lots of feeling, don't we? And sometimes with ideas — to show how something works. And there are drawings which go with stories. We've got them all inside us."

The model reclines, hands supporting her torso from behind, head slightly lowered and inclined. A tricky pose, fraught with foreshortenings from no matter which angle you view it. Within five minutes, the charcoal is moving fearlessly.

Girls sketch precisely, analytically, small and in the centre of the paper. Boys sweep over the surface with a bold primitivism. Just five minutes on and drawing stops; work is initiated.

Now they have an even bigger sheet of paper in front of them. "Dot the charcoal round all four corners," Steel tells them. "Fast! Draw a big circle, round and round. Now stand up. I'm going to shout one, two, three, and then you make the shape with your bodies of what I call out. Mice! Monkeys! Now, when I shout, make marks on the paper which correspond to what I say. A huge soft smudge! A snake, slithering over the paper! Horrible ugly little marks, eating into the paper!"

Exercise follows exercise in rapid, fluent sequence. The idea with this age group is not to complete, to develop, to assess, but to look closely, to be aware of the body, to focus on different ways of seeing, on

The anatomy of a lesson

freedom of movement. All our knowledge, as Leonardo said, "has its origin in our perceptions."

Now yet another large sheet. "We're going to draw Niki again!" Charlotte, too, springs up. "But she hates staying still. She can't stay in one position for a moment! What are we going to do?" Even as a watchful eye is lowered to the paper, a leg is raised, an elbow bent, a spine tensed. "It's impossible to make a neat drawing, isn't it? Sooty lines bend, blend, twist, overlap. Drawings begin to look like an animated sequence of Renaissance sketches."

Now the master himself is invoked. "Anyone heard of Leonardo da Vinci? He was very interested in what our bodies could do. He even dissected them. He cut off the skin and looked inside."

The children pair off, arch their backs, feel the knobs on the spine, the fleshiness of the stomach. They become witches and warlocks. Bent over, crushed under the weight of a sack heavy with spells, flies' eyes, frogs' blood. Faces grimace, voices groan. "Now, in just a couple of minutes, draw what that felt like."

All this, and more, has happened within an hour and a half. Just before lunch, the class tiptoes round its circle of drawings, quietly inspecting each other's work. Before the visit of the RA team, most of the children had only copied pictures from books or drawn portraits of each other. Now they keep sketchbooks in which ideas constantly shift and develop.

Kevin Wright, general inspector for art in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, has observed both the RA's sixth-form and primary

skills of both observation and imagination become uniquely fused in these intensive projects.

"For once, it's nothing to do with galleries and clipboards," he says. "This really gets to the centre of the business. And no one else is doing it. It's formidable."

● For more information contact Paula Kirt, Education Department, Royal Academy of Arts, London W1V 0DS 0171-404 5730, fax: 494 5781

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ROWING

Breakfast-time showdown for club colleagues

BY MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

LONDON'S B and C eights, who would not have been overjoyed at being drawn together in the Thames Cup, now have the unenviable honour of providing the first of the week's 324 races at the 157th Henley Royal Regatta, which starts at 8.30am today.

London A, one of four selected crews in the Thames, will be assured of a larger audience at 3pm when they race Nottingham and Union, coached by Marysh Chmiel, the international lightweight medal-winner, who believes they should have been selected as they have beaten both Wallingford and Nottingham Boat Club, who have favoured status.

None of the eight selected boats in the Temple Challenge

Cup eights or the Diamond Challenge Sculls enter the fray until tomorrow. In the Temple, however, ten overseas crews will be on view, including Orange Coast, from the United States, in their revolutionary boat, who take on Eton. Bruce Grainger, the Eton coach, asked about competing against a "hydrophobic" craft, was rather dismissive. "It's a question for The Times crossword really — spherical objects, eight letters, ending with S." All will be revealed at 5.35pm.

Conventional, rather than innovative boats, posed problems for the American crews from Dartmouth, New Hampshire, yesterday. Their junior varsity crew, entered in the Temple, were unhappy with

their borrowed boat and went for an outing in the one belonging to their senior colleagues, entered in the Ladies Plate.

They collided with a pleasure craft, destroyed the bows, and left their coach, Scott Armstrong, with the unenviable task of swiftly borrowing, and rigging up, two boats at short notice. Luckily, their compatriots from Georgetown came to the rescue.

Yale, winners at Marlow Regatta, and a selected crew in the Temple, also had a mishap, colliding with Alex Story, a member of the Great Britain Olympic eight, who was out in a sculling boat. Story took an unexpected swim and Yale suffered a bent rigger.

Duncan Nicol, of the local Upper Thames club, will race Peter Ujhelyi, a 17-year-old Hungarian, in an early round of the Diamond Sculls today in a rather lighter boat than one on show at the Leander Club, which he will occupy in September, 1997.

Chay Blyth, the Atlantic rower, was present yesterday with ex-Molesley rower, Jack Wishart, to promote a Canary Islands to Barbados, 2,900-mile race. Sixty crews have entered. Nicol and All Gill, the stroke of the Great Britain women's Olympic eight, being one of them.

Parents will swell the enclosures as 32 school eights begin their quest for the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup. Hampton, the favourites, after Eton's decision to race their first eight in the Temple, have the least enviable task of the four selected crews, against Coleraine.

The Britannia and Wyfold Challenge Cups for coxed and coxed fours should be happy hunting grounds for British crews. There are just three overseas entries in the Britannia and only two in the Wyfolds. One of the latter, Sind Rana, the first Pakistani entry at Henley, were still one man short yesterday.

Angus Robertson, Henley's entry co-ordinator, said: "Three arrived on Saturday, via Moscow, two days late and one chap seems to be stuck in Karachi." Robertson has obtained a boat for them from London University and blades, coloured the required blue and gold, from St Edward's School. But will Molesley B be alone on the start at 10.45am?

ORDER FOR HENLEY REGATTA

0830: Thames: London B v London C.
0835: Thames: Chesham B v University Col.
0840: Princess Elizabeth: St Edward's v Rascley B.
0845: Wyfold: Twickenham v Henford.
0850: Diamond Sculls: D W Nicol v P Ujhelyi.
0900: Thames: Aggool v Badford.
0905: Thames: Stratford v Union v Reading Univ.
0910: Princess Elizabeth: Bedford Modern v Kingston GS.
0915: Wyfold: Upper Thames v Henley.
0920: Britannia: Union of London A v Oratory.
0925: Britannia: Liverpool Univ v Univ of Westminster.
0930: Thames: Currier v Thames.
0935: Thames: Leeds Univ v Oxford Univ.
0940: Princess Elizabeth: Strawberry A v Abingdon B.
0945: Wyfold: Lee v London B.
0950: Britannia: St Aid and St Bede, Durham v Molesley.
0955: Britannia: Sons of the Thames v Lee.
1000: Thames: Nottingham BC v Stankford (US).
1005: Thames: Nottinghams v Univ of Bristol.
1010: Princess Elizabeth: Emanuel v Abingdon A.
1015: Wyfold: Worcester v Blaunewe (Switz).
1020: Britannia: Dartmouth (US) v Wellesford.
1025: Thames: Auld Nansington v Cambridge 99.
1030: Thames: Trinity Col, Dublin B v Dartmouth B (US).
1035: Princess Elizabeth: Chesham v Ang's, Chester.
1040: Wyfold: Molesley B v Sand (Paik).
1045: Diamond Sculls: S E B McLaughlin (Aus) v L T F Pender.
1050: Thames: City of Bristol v Warriner Park (SA).
1055: Thames: Nottingham Univ A v Chesham (Holl).
1100: Princess Elizabeth: St John's HS (US) v Laymer.
1105: Britannia: Durham Univ A v Thames.
1110: Diamond Sculls: M P van der Schoot (Holl) v D T F Pender.
1115: Thames: Wallingford A v Bevidley.
1120: Thames: Durham Univ v 1st and 3rd Trinity, Cambridge.
1125: Princess Elizabeth: Buckingham Browne and Nichols (US) v Bedford B.
1130: Wyfold: Bedford v Molesley A.
1135: Britannia: Cambridge (US) v Durham Univ B.
1140: Thames: Wallingford B v Neptune Univ.
1145: Thames: Florida IT (US) v Newcastle Univ.
1150: Princess Elizabeth: St Paul's v Hampton.
1155: Wyfold: Marlborough v Cambridge 99.
1200: Britannia: City of Oxford v Georgetown (US).
1400: Thames: Bevil Bridge v Royal Navy

1405: Temple: Magdalene Coll, Cambridge v Tibury (Holl).
1410: Princess Elizabeth: Coleraine v Hampton A.
1415: Wyfold: Queen's Tower v Wallingford.
1420: Britannia: Chesham v Bedford.
1425: Thames: Twickenham v Welton.
1430: Britannia: Rhodes (SA) v Edinburgh Univ.
1435: Temple: Rascley A v Eton.
1440: Princess Elizabeth: Rascley A v Eton.
1445: Wyfold: Yale v Thames Tideway.
1450: Britannia: Nottingham Trent Univ v Loughborough Univ.
1500: Thames: Nottingham and Union v London A.
1505: Temple: Nihon Univ (Japan) v Isle de France City (US).
1510: Princess Elizabeth: Shipley v Westminster.
1515: Wyfold: Thames v Tyne.
1520: Britannia: Kingston v London.
1525: Thames: Lee v Marlow.
1530: Temple: Dartmouth A (US) v Ridley (Can).
1535: Princess Elizabeth: Canford v King's, Canterbury.
1540: Wyfold: Royal Engineers v Nottingham BC B.
1545: Diamond Sculls: J J A Bunton (Aus) v G Towey (Ire).
1550: Thames: Linsell v Staines.
1555: Temple: Magdalene Coll, Oxford v Nottingham Univ B.
1560: Princess Elizabeth: Oratory v King's, Canterbury.
1565: Wyfold: Bradford-on-Avon v Durn v C G Butler.
1570: Diamond Sculls: A van den Brink v C G Butler.
1575: Thames: Upper Thames v Eton.
1580: Temple: Eton v Orange Coast (US).
1585: Princess Elizabeth: Banwood (Can) v King's, Worcester.
1590: Wyfold: Kingston v Bed Reg.
1595: Britannia: Harlow SC (US) v Redley.
1600: Thames: Farnley v Thames.
1605: Princess Elizabeth: Pangbourne v Bedford School A.
1610: Wyfold: City of Bristol A v Oyston.
1615: Britannia: Upper Thames v Bedford.
1620: Diamond Sculls: R Kadzianka (Lith) v A V Wale.
1625: Temple: Essex Univ v Oxford Brookes Univ B.
1630: Princess Elizabeth: Oundle v Shrewsbury B.
1635: Wyfold: London A v Reading.
1640: Britannia: Cambridge 99 v Staines.
1645: Diamond Sculls: C P Greenaway v J J Brookes.
1650: Thames: Durham v Defence Forces (Ire).
1655: Temple: Churchill Coll, Cambridge v 1st Trinity, Cambridge.
1660: Wyfold: City of Bristol B v Nottingham BC A.
1665: Britannia: Royal Crest v Oxford Brookes Univ.
1670: Diamond Sculls: S J Ross v J D M Schellier.



Boardman, of Britain, is bunched in the pack during yesterday's third stage

CYCLING

Roche peddling idea of taking Tour to Ireland

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE IN NOGENT-SUR-OISE

THE figure dispensing good cheer and common sense on the Cœur de Lion stand in the hospitality village yesterday morning looked boyishly familiar, though the cheeks were fuller and the dark hair greying at the edges. Children, businessmen, passers-by and aficionados queued to shake his hand, have a picture taken or a card signed. Stephen Roche is not forgotten in these parts and if his ambitious plans to bring the Tour to his homeland in 1998 come to fruition, Ireland will have further cause to thank one of their most popular sporting sons.

Roche's ride to victory in the Tour de France nine years ago is still talked about with awe, the middle leg of an extraordinary triple which began with a win in the Giro d'Italia and ended with the Irishman wearing the rainbow jersey of world champion. "It's like a dream," Roche said yesterday. "I watch the video sometimes and wonder whether that can possibly be me."

Since being forced to retire in 1993 with sore knees and a bad back, Roche has found no difficulty in letting go of his racing days. He commutes for Eurosport and, through his company, Proscam, helps to organise the promotional support for Cœur de Lion. He took his Tour-winning bike out of the shed last year for the first time in six months, found the tyres were flat, but rode it five miles to a friend's house to find a pump, wearing an old pair of Carrera bicycle shorts, an old sweater and a pair of tennis shoes.

"I hadn't ridden for a long time," Roche recalled. "Somehow, I always found an excuse for not going out — oh, look, there's a cloud over it, it might rain — and the less fit I got, the harder it became. But one evening, I just had to go out, right then, or I knew I might never get back on the bike again."

With the departure of both Roche and Sean Kelly, the Irish influence on the Tour has waned. But Jean-Marie Leblanc, the Tour director, remained a good friend and in a reflective moment after a recent Ireland v France rugby union match, Roche suggested Dublin as a venue for the start of the 1998 Tour. A formal proposal, supported by Ireland's Minister for Tourism, was put to the Tour and will be considered within the next two months.

"It's just a question of keep-

ing the fires burning," Roche said. "We need financial backing from the Government before the Tour organisers will commit themselves. But it's now or never. It's no good saying we can have it in 20 years' time."

The cost of staging the Tour would run to as much as £2.5 million but the success of the two English stages in 1994 showed the French that both the organisation and the soul of the Tour would be safe across the water.

Roche admits that his interest in the Tour comes alive when the mountains are in sight. Yesterday, 24 hours after the eighteenth anniversary of the Somme, the 192 remaining riders rolled through the battlefields on the third stage, past the rows of white headstones lining the roadside cemeteries. The sense of hist-

TOUR DETAILS

THIRD STAGE (199km). Vascoual to Nogent-sur-Oise. 1. Zabel (Ger) 2. Serrano (Spa) 3. Serrano (Spa) 4. Serrano (Spa) 5. Serrano (Spa) 6. Serrano (Spa) 7. Serrano (Spa) 8. Serrano (Spa) 9. Serrano (Spa) 10. Serrano (Spa) 11. Serrano (Spa) 12. Serrano (Spa) 13. Serrano (Spa) 14. Serrano (Spa) 15. Serrano (Spa) 16. Serrano (Spa) 17. Serrano (Spa) 18. Serrano (Spa) 19. Serrano (Spa) 20. Serrano (Spa) 21. Serrano (Spa) 22. Serrano (Spa) 23. Serrano (Spa) 24. Serrano (Spa) 25. Serrano (Spa) 26. Serrano (Spa) 27. Serrano (Spa) 28. Serrano (Spa) 29. Serrano (Spa) 30. Serrano (Spa) 31. Serrano (Spa) 32. Serrano (Spa) 33. Serrano (Spa) 34. Serrano (Spa) 35. Serrano (Spa) 36. Serrano (Spa) 37. Serrano (Spa) 38. Serrano (Spa) 39. Serrano (Spa) 40. Serrano (Spa) 41. Serrano (Spa) 42. Serrano (Spa) 43. Serrano (Spa) 44. Serrano (Spa) 45. Serrano (Spa) 46. Serrano (Spa) 47. Serrano (Spa) 48. Serrano (Spa) 49. Serrano (Spa) 50. Serrano (Spa) 51. Serrano (Spa) 52. Serrano (Spa) 53. Serrano (Spa) 54. 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COMING SOON: TERRY VENABLES'S EXCLUSIVE ACCOUNT OF THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF THE EURO '96 CAMPAIGN

Managing the impossible job

BY TERRY VENABLES

In the second extract from his book, *The Best Game in the World*, Terry Venables analyses the qualities required to become a great manager

A crazy job, an almost impossible job, was the way Ron Greenwood described the manager's role in the modern English game long before Graham Taylor got round to the idea. It came as a bit of a shock, since I had not long been appointed a manager for the first time myself as successor to Malcolm Allison at Crystal Palace in 1976 and had just bumped into Ron at a summer fête to which I had taken my two young daughters. I listened hard because he was a wise man whose experience then spanned all the developments in football since the abolition of the maximum wage in 1961. When Ron Greenwood complained about the increasingly complex nature of the job, you paid attention.

There's a spiral of people in and around the club, he explained, and there in the centre of it all is you, the manager. First of all, you've got your own managerial and coaching staff, which you have to organise. Then there is the playing staff, but you are responsible not just for the first team, but the second and youth teams as well. To get a youth team, you have to attract young players, so that means talking to new boys and their parents. Then there are directors to deal with and transfers to conduct. You handle the players' contracts, too, and coach the first team, travel thousands of miles looking at players and deal with the media. What this boils down to is that you are responsible not only for the results of the first team — by which you are judged — but the building of the club.

The basic nature of the job hasn't changed much in the 20 years since Ron and I met. In most cases, it is still enormously demanding. If there has been a change it has been one of intensity. With the fierceness of competition increasing, the pressure on the football club manager has grown almost unbearable.

Yet the sheer impossibility of the job, I believe, is beginning to lead to a hiving-off of some of the manager's duties. Gradually, we are moving towards the continental

concept of a division of responsibility between the coach, whose only concern is the preparation of the team, and a general manager, who deals with all other administrative matters. That, I am convinced, is the right way to go.

So far as I'm concerned, the modern managerial era begins with men like Sir Matt Busby, Bill Nicholson, Bill Shankly and Ron Greenwood about 15 years after the war. That's when the game started

the gradual acceptance of the idea that the management of a club should be based on a division of responsibility. The relationship between chairman and manager is of vital importance, and its quality depends to a large extent on the personality of the chairman. If he, having put a lot of money into the club, demands a say in football matters, then there are bound to be problems. If, on the other hand, you are a Jack Walker and accept

sey, who was slightly aloof from the players but commanded total respect. Shankly was this huge personality who generated amusement and seriousness in equal parts. But what it added up to in every case was leadership.

Honesty with your players is another essential requirement. I really believe that you cannot retain their respect if you are dishonest with them, that will come through: they'll find you out. You also need a willingness to understand your players. You've got to be prepared to listen to their problems and help them out, not just say you've got other things to do.

Personality, too, is an important ingredient. You've got to have a warmth towards the players, so that they enjoy being part of the club. It also helps you get over bad results if there's a determination to stick together: you'll come through that storm and get back on track.

Football knowledge is essential, of course, but it's not enough just to have played the game professionally. The good manager has to have a teaching knowledge of the game. You must be able to improve your players — technically and tactically. It's very important that you give them a plan where they are in no doubt about what they are supposed to be doing in the team.

All those things amount to the sort of leadership qualities demonstrated by the Busbys, Shanklys, Paisleys, Nicholson's, Greenwood's, Reeves, Robsons and Cloughs. Man-management and knowing your players: that's how you get the most out of them. Money is the ball and end-all for some players, whereas others just want a pat on the back. Then there are others again who need the carrot and the stick.

The trick is to know what's required to get the best out of them all so they can do in your team what they do best.

From *The Best Game in the World*, by Terry Venables, to be published by Century in September.

'Honesty with your players is another essential requirement. If you are dishonest with them, they'll find you out'

to get more professional and become more popular with the media. There was a process of evolution in which the manager became the all-important figure at certain clubs. In the Sixties and Seventies particularly, it was the manager who ran the show and gave the chairman his orders, so to speak, because he was the only person on the books who knew the game. What has happened now is that the relationship between manager and chairman has come full circle. I think the manager, in lots of cases, is in a weaker position today than he was 50 years ago.

There are two reasons for that. One is the emergence of a new breed of wealthy chairmen/owners in the past ten years or so, and the other is what I mentioned earlier,

that team-building is the manager's job, the rich benefactor is rewarded through the success of the team.

The English club manager is losing that control of the whole club he used to have, but his power in the dressing-room and on the training pitch remains undiminished. If anything, the latter is probably increasing along with his market value. He's been told to stick to what he's good at. You don't cross that dividing line now unless you become a director or a managing director.

In this whole context, I think, the essence of greatness is leadership. That can come in many forms. Sir Matt was this father-figure, who made sure the players were looked after and got everything they wanted. Then you've got Alf Ram-

Casualties of media crossfire

Football is a simple game, but only up to a point. It is getting more and more complex all the time on the field as tactics become increasingly sophisticated, and it has been a really tangled business off it for a long time now — ever since television began to establish itself as king of the media jungle in the early 1960s, in fact.

Virtually unchallenged previously as the main channel of communication between football and its public, the papers felt they could no longer sell just on match reports and official communiques from the clubs. Something stronger and more stimulating was required. Television's coverage of football, I believe, ushered in the age of the back page "exclusive". The competition for football "scoops" grew fiercer as players' wages and transfer fees escalated. At the same time, newspaper circulation figures were shrinking — largely because of TV's popularity — at a rate which sent several of them to the wall. That battle for survival helped to make the competition for sensation-

al football stories even more cut-throat. Today, the whole business is seriously out of control.

I have my own reservations about *Panorama*, after the two wildly inaccurate programmes they did on me, but TV's presentation of the game itself is pretty

all. I told them I couldn't say anything other than what I saw in a game. Unless I do that, I said, the viewers are not going to take us seriously. The people out there are not fools.

If it's done properly, it can be fascinating. It's particularly satisfy-



'That's why it was popular when Jimmy Hill and I disagreed vehemently with each other. That's what the viewers want to hear'

good. Having said that, I do have to admit they don't like you to say there are any bad matches if you are a pundit. I always remember the first World Cup game I commented on. I said it had replaced Mogadon, the sleeping tablet. The television people did not like it at

all. I told them I couldn't say anything other than what I saw in a game. Unless I do that, I said, the viewers are not going to take us seriously. The people out there are not fools.

I think television has done foot-

ball a service on and off the field by fixing the game with its all-seeing eye. It's true the presence of the cameras puts the players and referees under greater pressure than ever, but that's not necessarily a bad thing so far as the players are concerned. When there was no television and no video evidence, players could get away with a lot when the referee wasn't looking.

What you see is what you get from television, but newspapers are a different matter entirely. Interpretation is the name of the game there and I think it has gone far beyond the bounds of acceptability in some cases. Years ago, you knew that reporters would always come back to you to check a story. Now they don't, because they are afraid you will knock it down. One of my big bugbears is the way newspapers set out to make people like Paul Gascoigne look a complete mug. I know he can be his own worst enemy, but the papers go over the top about him and other players and, all of sudden, the kids haven't got any heroes at all.



MY EURO 96 DIARIES

BY GRAHAM KELLY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

A potentially golden moment ruined by an excitable Home Secretary; a battle to prise the Prime Minister away from the television



26 Wednesday
JUNE
The biggest day so far. Semi-final v Germany. Urgent call at 8.30am to augment press team for match against German media. Lose again. Lunch with German officials (including the great Bert Trautmann) at Hyde Park Hotel.

Early to Wembley to watch other semi on television. Disappointing game. Golden goal again fails to materialise. Prime Minister arrives after a hectic day, two minutes before kick-off. No sooner have we settled into our seats than Ince produces a marvellous volley and Shearer opens the scoring.

Then Germany start to exhibit their hallmark — movement — as England are pressed back. Equaliser. Extra time after a superb game and my words about the golden

goal are about to be eaten. Anderton hits post. Gascoigne narrowly misses, and Germany have an effort disallowed.

In fact, I'm told Anderton hits the post, because my view was temporarily obscured by our Home Secretary, who leapt to his feet at the crucial moment. Wait till he taxes me about fans standing in all-seater grounds!

Penalties yet again — which I don't relish against the Germans — and the tension is unbelievable. We are all stunned by our exit. Bobby Robson: "Who says lightning doesn't strike twice?" Our German colleagues seem genuinely embarrassed by beating us on penalties again. I seek out Terry Venables on the pitch to say "thank you".

I rarely enter the dressing-room, but tonight is an exception as I try — unsuccessfully — to find any

suitable words for Tony Adams and Stuart Pearce. Klinsmann tells me tonight was really the final. I wish him luck in his fitness battle for Sunday.

Home at last to pictures of rioting on Sky News. Have the sickos stolen the game from all those lovely fans again?

27 Thursday
JUNE
Thankfully, the trouble seems to have been only indirectly related to football. Drunken yobs in a number of towns and cities have used the occasion as an excuse for what they no doubt regard as a bit of fun.

The Uefa headquarters hotel, the Royal Garden in Kensington, awakens to the realisation that the tournament has been blessed with a wonderful match fit to grace any final of any event. Quite simply, last night was what football is all

about. The best unrehearsed spectacle of all, pure drama, pure theatre, heart-rending emotions, dispirited players, and a warm and humble in victory.

Terry Venables has proved what I've been saying all along — that he has instilled in the players a more sophisticated grasp of the realities of international football at the highest level. He's left Glenn Hoddle a rich legacy of talent and some tantalisingly difficult decisions!

Into the park for the regular Thursday lunchtime kick-about. Not for me the business lunch or the managing director's afternoon of golf. This Chief Executive relaxes with... 45 minutes football!

Have to get in trim for the FA v Uefa staff match at Wembley the day after the final. I hear Hoddle wants to play, but he must start on the bench, as I did!

Euro 96 has, in many ways, set the seal on English football's rehabilitation in Europe after the dark days of banishment following Hysel. Superb facilities, infectious atmosphere and no fences in front of the fans. Indeed both the English fans and players have done an awful lot for the game.

England announced as Fair Play winners. It is often overlooked at home that our game has an excellent reputation for sportsmanship and the present team has enhanced it in Euro 96. Good news.

To the Sports Council for discussions on new national stadium. Wembley must be overjoyed that everything has gone so well. Back to Royal Garden at 7pm for

reception and presentations by ISL Marketing, Uefa's commercial partners. Supper at the Mulino, Mill Hill, and home just before midnight.

28 Friday
JUNE
Today is the last formal Uefa Executive Committee meeting for Sir Bert Millichip who has been making it clear for some considerable time that he intends to relinquish the FA chairmanship after 15 years, a remarkable spell in modern day football. He will stay on Uefa as a special adviser.

Establishing rapport with foreign colleagues is a crucial part of our work at Lancaster Gate. Winning and dining is not a role which came easy to me — not surprising as I don't drink, follow a near-vegetarian diet, rise at 5am every morning and have been regarded in some quarters as an inveterate loner — but over the last two years or so I have built strong and lasting relationships with many presidents and general secretaries of other European associations, particularly major players such as France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Belgium and the Nordic group. Recently I have chaired meetings of national associations on the Bosman case and nowhere was the value of personal contact better demonstrated than when I headed the presentation of the successful appeal by Spurs and Wimbledon over their unjustified suspension by Uefa over the Interotto Cup. You have to get to know the people involved and the way they approach things.

Interviews for position of Commercial Director to fill vacancy left by resignation of Trevor Phillips. To Madame Tussauds for our dinner, welcoming guests from every part of Europe and other confederations on the eve of the 23rd Uefa Congress. This novel and different venue proves highly popular, despite my urging one or two people to keep moving!

I am surprised to learn from Fifa General Secretary, Sepp Blatter, the news that Germany will be allowed to draft in two replacement players for the final. Overnight in London.

29 Saturday
JUNE
To Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre for 23rd Uefa Congress. Lennart Johansson, speaking of Euro 96, referred to the new spirit of tolerance that was present in the tournament. I like that — I hope it lasts.

Sir Bert Millichip steps down and is elected as honorary member. Erik of Turkey replaces Hykgaard of Denmark as representative (with D'Hooghe of Belgium) at Fifa.

The Conference dinner is held at Café Royal. London is packed as 150,000 people cram into Hyde Park for the Mastercard bash featuring Eric Clapton, Bob Dylan and The Who.

Discuss the Fifa presidency with Dr Chung, the President of Korea Republic FA — we agree that, above all, the succession must be conducted with dignity and openness.

30 Sunday
JUNE
Oh, for what might have been! Never mind, put on a brave face and look forward to a tension-free match. Belgium and the Netherlands football associations host a Euro 2000 reception — almost time to put Euro 96 behind us.

Try without success to buy a Czech v Germany final scarf. All sold out.

I am detailed to receive heads of state. Helmut Kohl cuts a powerful swath through the milling crowd on the forecourt, with an entourage numbering 50. John Major is reluctant to be dragged away from the tournament highlights being shown on television, then discusses Stanley Matthews with Franz Beckenbauer, who professes to be too young to remember the maestro.

Before the second half comes alive the last moments are at half-time when Terry Venables receives the Fair Play Award for England and the Dutch ompah band movingly play in front of the royal box after the presentation of the supporters' trophy.

Tournament Director Glen Kinton sitting alongside me reflects happily on a job well done.

Particularly untidy end with poor co-operation between referee and linesman. But Klinsmann fittingly mounts the famous steps to receive the trophy from the Queen. An exhilarating three weeks for English football. Incalculable benefits for English football. And memories that will always be with us.

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JULY 3 1996

TENNIS: DUTCHMAN TAKES RESTRAINED VIEW OF SUCCESS

Stich unravels as Krajicek ties up fourth-round win

By ALIX RAMSAY

RICHARD KRAJICEK had a point to make yesterday, and he is good at making points. He is famous for it at Wimbledon. In fact, his greatest moment, until yesterday, was informing the world that the women players were "lazy, fat pigs". Looking back he rather wishes he had kept his mouth shut. No matter; he had other things on his mind yesterday, namely Michael Stich and a place in the Wimbledon quarter-finals. He won 6-4, 7-6, 6-4. Point taken.

Krajicek came into Wimbledon in the odd position of being No 17 seed. Overlooked by the seeding committee at first — he had lost in the first round here for the last two years — he was elevated at the eleventh hour when Thomas Muster withdrew through injury. "I was surprised by that in one way and in another I could understand it," he said. "I thought that if I was No 13 in the world and I had played a good French Open, I could expect to be seeded. I had been

playing well for the last five or six weeks. But I proved them wrong; not that it was my goal to do that."

This was a remarkably relaxed attitude from a chap known for a more dramatic view of life, but by then he had just dismantled Stich, the No 10 seed, in a little under two hours with a display of controlled ferocity. He served like a demon, raining aces down upon the former champion with no hint of remorse. Time after time he whipped returns past Stich with his supposedly weak backhand, and if forced into a rally — not that there were many — he took charge from the net.

There must have been something in the air on No 1 Court as Stich does not usually take defeat easily but, despite a problem with a shoulder injury, he knew he had met his match yesterday. "I was not playing the way I wanted to," he said. "But I can accept it, a bit better than I used to, especially against Richard who just had a very good day." It all seemed very strange



for a match that had every possibility of turning into a war, but then Krajicek has learnt to make his points more diplomatically these days. In the past, he has taken against places and people and his fights with the Dutch press are the stuff of legend. He is a little older now, at 24, and a little wiser. Two years ago, he spent five months away from the courts recovering from a knee injury and it gave him time to think. "Today I accept the good with the bad and I don't bear grudges any more," he said.

Putting the matter of the seeding to one side, he is happy to be at Wimbledon and given that his next opponent is

Pete Sampras, he seems relaxed. "Pete has got a big serve and you have got to return well," he said. "If you get behind the ball sometimes it is easy to return, and I seemed to be picking them today."

It hardly seems the most aggressive of game plans. For Krajicek, though, tennis is as much in the mind as on the court and he is pleased that, for once at Wimbledon, he managed to concentrate from start to finish, never giving Stich the chance to get back into the match. "For sure it was one of my best matches, I had to stay focused and I stayed with it mentally."

Having disposed of one former champion, he is not thinking too much about tactics as he takes on the holder. "We both serve well, and I have just got to stay with it," he said. "When your opponent goes off for a couple of points then you have to take your chance. But tactics? The only tactic is to win the last point, then you are doing pretty well." And Krajicek does like to make his point.



Stich, the Wimbledon champion five years ago, faces up to defeat by Krajicek

Jensen told that it is just not cricket

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

LUKE and Murphy Jensen, the brothers from the United States, were given a dressing-down last week for trying to play at Wimbledon wearing England football shirts. Luke received another sartorial sermon yesterday — but this time he won the day.

Luke arrived with Nicole Arendt, his playing partner in the mixed doubles, wearing an off-white cricket sweater and long trousers. The umpire said he could wear neither. The referee's office eventually intervened and allowed the match to go ahead, the Americans winning in two sets.

"The outfit is just consistent with our attitude of trying to broaden the boundaries of tennis," Luke's mother, Pat, said.

Steffi Graf dropped out of the mixed doubles event at Wimbledon last night because of an injury — to her coach, Heinz Günthard. The former Swiss Davis Cup player was forced to withdraw because of a torn leg muscle. Graf and Günthard had been the No 15 seeds for the event.

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Atlanta 7 Montreal 2; San Francisco 9 Colorado 6; Philadelphia 6 New York 4; Pittsburgh 4 Chicago 1; Houston 6 Florida 2; Cincinnati 6 St Louis 1; Los Angeles 10 San Diego 2.

BASKETBALL

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Australia 87 Italy 76 (Australia won series 5-0).

BOWLS

BELFAST: Home International championship. Ulster Transport Scotland 1st, West 124-112 (Scotland 1st, Ulster 2nd). R. Cavanagh 1st, R. Cavanagh 2nd, R. Cavanagh 3rd, R. Cavanagh 4th, R. Cavanagh 5th, R. Cavanagh 6th, R. Cavanagh 7th, R. Cavanagh 8th, R. Cavanagh 9th, R. Cavanagh 10th, R. Cavanagh 11th, R. Cavanagh 12th, R. Cavanagh 13th, R. Cavanagh 14th, R. Cavanagh 15th, R. Cavanagh 16th, R. Cavanagh 17th, R. Cavanagh 18th, R. Cavanagh 19th, R. Cavanagh 20th, R. Cavanagh 21st, R. Cavanagh 22nd, R. Cavanagh 23rd, R. Cavanagh 24th, R. Cavanagh 25th, R. Cavanagh 26th, R. Cavanagh 27th, R. Cavanagh 28th, R. Cavanagh 29th, R. Cavanagh 30th, R. Cavanagh 31st, R. Cavanagh 32nd, R. Cavanagh 33rd, R. Cavanagh 34th, R. Cavanagh 35th, R. Cavanagh 36th, R. Cavanagh 37th, R. Cavanagh 38th, R. Cavanagh 39th, R. Cavanagh 40th, R. Cavanagh 41st, R. Cavanagh 42nd, R. Cavanagh 43rd, R. Cavanagh 44th, R. Cavanagh 45th, R. Cavanagh 46th, R. Cavanagh 47th, R. Cavanagh 48th, R. Cavanagh 49th, R. 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Buffalo, chimpanzees and, of course, an elk

An interesting moment in the second part of Larry McMurry's *Buffalo Girls* last night (Channel 4). Beautiful saloon madam Dora (Melanie Griffith) has married out of spite, on hearing that her lover, Blue, has forsaken her. But Blue rides into town! What should she do? She flaps her hands at the window, while her maid rushes in. "Did you see him?" and "What shall we do?" they squeal. The maid has a suggestion. "Go tell your new husband he's going to leave town this instant and bring back a elk! Tell him not to come home till he's found one!" Two seconds later, when the husband wordlessly whips up his horses below their window and trundles his cart down Main Street, the two women dance with relief, with their bustles bouncing. Phew. It worked! You can never tell with "Go get an elk" whether it will lead to awkward questions.

As my colleague Matthew Bond warned us yesterday, *Buffalo Girls* was very bad indeed; but it was compelling. Personally, I am a sucker for any story that ends with the sentiment "We seen some glory days — you, me and old Jim — the likes of which we ain't never gonna see again". A tear forms instantly in my eye. But any emotional investment I made in *Buffalo Girls* was achieved by sheer strength of will. Compared with the big skies and grand canyons of *Lonesome Dove* (1989 Larry McMurry series), *Buffalo Girls* was a muddy creek with a bit of tumbleweed. Its monotonous climaxes seemed to be driven purely by the demands of American ad breaks. The characters were two-dimensional. The acting was flat. And in terms of plot "Go get an elk" was, alas, one of the more plausible moments.

It's not every day, for example, that you see Angelica Huston in fringed buckskins stride across a

crescent in Bath while Big Ben chimes the hour in the background. The verve induced by this bizarre conjunction made me feel rather as if I'd been sent off to get an elk with no explanation. But the second part of *Buffalo Girls* was an attempt at a version of *Stella Dallas* — a year-strained mother watching her now-privileged child without revealing her identity — and for that Calamity Jane must walk London streets, and shoot pistols in a pub. Weiridly, the Victorian extras had been instructed to act normally when exotic Wild West costumes mingled with their clerical black, so they peered into cardboard jewelers' windows and took no notice — choreographed neatly in pairs, as if about to sing a song.

Torn as she was between her maternal love and her habit of sleeping in paper snow on the Rockies with unfunny old-



Lynne Truss

timers. Huston's Calamity Jane presented a rather tiring paradigm of modern woman. Sometimes she jutted her chin as a sign of staunchness; other times, she looked up at the camera with big wet eyes, to indicate womanly emotion. And sometimes, when confused between her two gender roles, she socked somebody on the jaw.

This hormonal upsy-downsy

was a bit insulting, to tell you the truth; but luckily, the new documentary series *Law Women* on BBC1 told a similar story much better. Susan Hill is a Detective Inspector in Hounslow who combines home-making and demanding career, and does it with no problem whatsoever. Hoohah. In between organising her staff to investigate a rape allegation, she goes to her new baby and buys tissues in Mothercare, she arrests a man, interrogates him, and then joins an aerobics class. Despite the continual thunder of aircraft overhead, Hounslow suddenly looks an attractive place to live. DI Hill takes flowers to the rape victim's house. She is a marvel.

Lynda La Plante will not be buying DI Hill's story, I suspect. Not enough conflict in it. But her story made short work of 30 minutes, perhaps because such competence is a joy to watch. Her only mistake, I thought, was to play

"I'm coming to get you!" with her small children in the garden — surely a bit menacing for the little ones, when mummy not only has power of arrest, but close professional contact with the Crown Prosecution Service.

Earlier in the evening, Dawn to Dusk (BBC1) took Jonathan Scott to Gombe in Tanzania, to meet some chimpanzees. I say "Jonathan Scott" in this airy manner, without qualification, because that's how he appeared on screen, but I admit he was a stranger to me. The viewer's goodwill is regularly stretched in this way, as if we are party hosts cheerfully losing control. "Now here's Dale Winston!" says an announcer, and we are instantly expected to say "Oh all right, hello Dale, come in, how are you, do you know everybody?"

The idea of *Dawn to Dusk* is that Scott pops into the jungle for a day

and watches some animals getting on with their everyday lives — the washing up and ironing, that sort of thing. Last night the chimps of the Gombe were wonderfully obliging — they are termites, picked ticks off each other, and even staged an impromptu skirmish. "What terrific good fortune!" Scott kept saying, which made me all the more suspicious of this ostensibly post-humous project. All these camera angles were never done in a single day. I just didn't believe it. However, the concept of *Dawn to Dusk* certainly makes a change from those annual cycles packed with selected drama, struggling baby animals and time-lapse rainstorms, all narrated by Ian Holm. If any of the next five films genuinely shows dull hours of lions flicking their ears in white grass, doing nothing except yawn, dream and defeat, I will personally go out to get a elk, and not come back till I've found one.

- 2.00am Business Breakfast** (94680)
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (65338)
9.00am Breakfast News Extra (3000154)
9.20am Prime Time Live (1982), b/w with Kenneth Connor and Sidney James. A face about members of a family who gather at a haunted house for the reading of a will. Directed by Pat Jackson (22139951)
12.00am News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2881067)
12.05pm Going for Gold with Henry Kelly (4) (771067)
12.30pm For the Love of It: A Countryman's Story (36847118)
12.35pm Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (9365203)
1.00pm One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (84425)
1.30pm Regional News and weather (12983203)
1.40pm Wimbledon 96, Desmond Lynam introduces live action from this afternoon's men's singles quarter-finals (s) (94106319)
5.35pm Neighbours, Hannah and Lance go on a stakeout (s) (211203)
6.00pm Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (13)
6.30pm Regional news magazines (83)
7.00pm Small Talk, Ronnie Corbett hosts the show in which grown-ups must unravel the minds of nine children and discover who knows best (Ceefax) (s) (9116)
7.30pm Mastermind from Norwich Cathedral. Magnus Magnusson puts four more contenders to the test, with the spotlight on the Gospels, the Chartist movement, the Canadian writer Elizabeth Smart and Colditz (Ceefax) (s) (67)
8.00pm FILM: Batman (1989) starring Michael Keaton, Jack Nicholson, Kim Basinger and Robert Wuhl. Tim Burton's dark, brooding meditation on the caped crusader of Gotham City is a far cry from camp television series. "The bat" is being haunted by the violent death of his parents at the hands of a young punk who would grow up to become the Joker. Directed by Tim Burton (Ceefax) (s) (8116) Continues after the news
8.00pm Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (8809)
9.30pm FILM: Batman, Concluded (77116)
10.30pm Today at Wimbledon, Sue Barker introduces highlights of the men's quarter-finals from the All England Club (Ceefax) (s) (783985)
11.35pm FILM: A Thousand Heroes (1991) with Charlton Heston, Richard Thomas and James Coburn. When the engines of a DC10 blow out on a routine flight, a pilot must fly to land the plane. Meanwhile, the local authorities squabble over the best way to deal with the impending catastrophe. Directed by Lamont Johnson (294406)
1.05am Weather (1195355)

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- 6.00am Open University: Concorde** (6453067)
6.25am A School of Genes (642574) 6.50 Religion and Society in Victorian Britain (9597883)
7.15pm See Hear Breakfast News (4636222)
7.30pm Smurfs' Adventures (9674970)
7.55pm Actv-8 (5404609) (s) (Ceefax)
8.20pm Mr Bean (s) (5834999)
8.35pm The Record (8371222)
9.00pm Yesterday at Wimbledon, Highlights of the ladies' quarter-finals (46699)
10.00pm Playdays (s) (6032303) 10.25 The Addams Family (b/w) (s) (5895593) 10.50 The Fugitive (b/w) (s) (5649067)
11.45pm Melvin and Maureen's Music-a-Grams (s) (1959591) 12.00 The Natural World (s) (23777)
12.30pm Year of the Pier: Cromer (51048)
1.00pm Wimbledon 96, Desmond Lynam and Sue Barker present live coverage of the men's singles quarter-finals (73010672)
3.55pm News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (2311116)
4.00pm Cartoon (7987154) 4.05 Casper Classics (7967777) 4.15 Jonny Briggs (4278574)
4.30pm Cartoon Critics, The show which goes behind the scenes to reveal the truth about animations, cartoons and real wildlife (80)
5.00pm Newsround (Ceefax) (9244319)
5.10pm Earthshakes, Drama series about two earthquakes caught up in the mystery of an Australian legend (s) (Ceefax) (s) (7035674)
5.35pm Wimbledon 96, Continued live coverage of the men's singles quarter-finals, introduced by Desmond Lynam and Sue Barker (76118222)
8.30pm International Athletics, Coverage of the Lausanne Grand Prix, including the 400m hurdles dash between Olympic champion Sally Gunnell and the woman who took her world record, Kim Batten. Introduced by Helen Rollason and Brendan Foster (83338)
9.30pm Thewatch: Haig — the Unknown Soldier (786880)
10.20pm Building Sights: Willis Corroon, Architect Zaha Hadid chooses to look at the Willis Corroon building in Ipswich, by Sir Norman Foster (Ceefax) (964390)
10.30pm Newswatch (Ceefax) (826832)
11.15pm Murder One: Chapter Eighteen, Legal drama following a high-profile murder case both in and out of the courtroom. The prosecution offers to cut a deal. Appleton's secret business dealings with the victim's wife (s) (Ceefax) (s) (478863)
12.05am The Midnight Hour with Andrew Neil, Political chat show (948471)
12.30am-6.00am Learning Zone



Field Marshal Haig (9.30pm)

Cartoon Critics
BBC2, 4.30pm
 The idea behind this jolly series for children is to combine entertainment with a little instruction by comparing cartoon animals with the real thing. In the Hollywood imagination, Bugs Bunny's trip to Bingle-Bang leads to a frightful beating at the hands of Groucho Gorilla. Talk about violence on television, though in cartoon films it hardly seems to count. But real gorillas, it transpires, are neither grouchy nor vicious but quite playful. They are also vegetarians and therefore unlikely to have a human being for lunch. With the polar bear it is the other way round. The cute and cuddly little nephew of the Barney Bear cartoon is in reality the most dangerous land animal on the planet. Hosting the show from a cluttered suburban garage are the puppet characters Dogbody and Fleur the poodle.

Gunpower USA: Shot in the Heartland
BBC2, 9.00pm
 The cameras spend a summer in Omaha, Nebraska, to test American attitudes towards gun violence. The point of the film is that Omaha is not New York or Los Angeles but a quiet Midwestern town where the streets are normally safe. Big city lawlessness, however, is creeping in. A group of young men who call themselves the Benson Mafia gangsters ride round town shooting at houses. Guns, they say, give them power. A 14-year-old boy is accidentally shot dead by his best friend while the lads are playing with a stolen handgun. And for the first time in 20 years an Omaha police officer is killed while on duty. The gun lobby, in this conservative heartland, sees none of this as an argument for curtailing the right to bear arms. But a surgeon who would normally have agreed is having doubts.

Century of Cinema: 100 Years of Japanese Cinema
Channel 4, midnight
 Nagisa Oshima is our guide to his country's film-making but as a distinguished director himself he is very much part of the story. This means that to cover his own work he has to move into the first person, though it says much for his lack of self-promotion that he manages to do so without appearing intrusive. After a somewhat pointed history of the period up to 1945, with lots of titles and little else, Oshima provides a more detailed coverage of postwar cinema, usefully setting the films against the wider context of social change. He rightly singles out his own *In the Realm of the Senses* as pushing out the limits of sexual expression. Despite Oshima's dislike of the concept of national cinema and hopes that in the next 100 years films will free themselves from what he calls the "spell" of Japan.

- 6.00am GMTV** (1831357) 9.25 Supermarket Sweep (s) (Teletext) (s) (6194406)
9.55am Regional News (Teletext) (9073680)
10.00pm The Time...the Place (s) (3654512)
10.35pm This Morning (92232195)
12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (2870951)
12.30pm News and weather (Teletext) (9391628)
12.55pm Shortland Street (s) (9376319) 1.25 Coronation Street (s) (Teletext) (5529425) 2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (6129984)
2.25pm FILM: The Good Family (1990) starring Mary Tyler Moore, Tony Curtis and Kelly Curtis. Comedy drama directed by Gino Tognazzi. Concludes tomorrow (746959)
3.20pm News headlines (Teletext) (9880512)
3.25pm Regional News (Teletext) (9898883)
3.50pm Alphabet Castle (s) (s) (3054693) 3.40 Wizard of Oz (s) (172408) 3.50 Britt Allcroft's Magic Adventures of Mumfie (s) (1715390) 4.00 Garfield and Friends (s) (4280777) 4.15 Huckleberry (s) (Teletext) (s) (5388319) 4.40 Are You Afraid of the Dark? (Teletext) (241512)
5.10pm A Country Practice (s) (7140883)
5.40pm News and weather (Teletext) (760154)
6.00pm Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (s) (625475)
6.25pm HTV News (46861) (484488)
7.00pm Midday Touch, (Teletext) (s) (7512)



Protesters protest (7.30pm)

- 7.30pm Coronation Street**, All is caught in the middle of an angry demonstration. (Teletext) (35)
8.00pm A Gala Comedy Hour — Best of the Prince's Trust, Sir David Frost introduces performances from three gags, including last year's highly acclaimed VE-Day show. (Teletext) (s) (4512)
9.00pm Shortland Street, Part 2. Continuation of the mini-series tracing a woman's investigation involving the Chicago Mafia. (Teletext) (s) (1048) Continues after the news
10.00pm News and weather (Teletext) (11932)
10.30pm Regional News (Teletext) (500684)
10.40pm Shortland Street, Conclusion (Teletext) (s) (301970)
11.25pm FILM: Elan (1985) starring Kate Nelligan, John Malkovich and Linda Hunt. Drama based on Nicholas Gage's autobiographical book about a reporter trying to find out the truth concerning his mother's execution in Greece during the World War II. Directed by Peter Yates (427507)
1.35pm God's Gift (7405588)
2.35pm Cyber Cafe (2622868)
3.00pm Dear Nick (3994450)
4.00pm Bushell on the Box (s) (50033)
4.30pm The Time...the Place (s) (36636)
5.00pm Cover Story (s) (15568)
5.30pm Morning News (31891)

- As HTV WEST except:**
6.25pm-7.00pm Wales Tonight (488661)
WESTCOUNTRY
As HTV West except:
12.25pm-12.30pm My Story (2889970)
12.55pm Coronation Street (9376319)
1.25pm-1.55pm Cross Wits (6112680)
1.55pm Home and Away (62413048)
2.25pm Brief Encounters (61262851)
3.55pm-3.20pm A Country Practice (7940357)
5.10pm-5.40pm Home and Away (7140883)
6.00pm-7.00pm Westcountry Live (56393)
2.55pm Cool Vibes (6783618)
3.00pm In Focus (8611154)
3.45pm Sound Bites (3178520)
4.00pm Late & Loud (50033)
CENTRAL
As HTV West except:
12.55pm Home and Away (9376319)
1.25pm Cross Wits (6112680)
1.55pm A Country Practice (7940357)
2.20pm The Ultimate Shopping Guide (8126380)
2.50pm-3.20pm Our House (9068154)
5.10pm-5.40pm Shortland Street, Soap set in suburban New Zealand (7140883)
6.25pm-7.00pm Central News and Weather (468661)
11.25pm Phoenix (101067)
12.25pm Bushell on the Box (468013)
12.55pm God's Gift (8162926)
1.55pm Dear Nick (4348278)
2.55pm Cool Vibes (6783618)
3.00pm In Focus (8604181)
3.45pm Jobfinder (804742)
5.20pm Asian Eye (1618162)

- As HTV West except:**
12.55pm Coronation Street (9376319)
1.25pm Home and Away (6112680)
1.55pm Shortland Street (7803177)
2.20pm Cooking at the Academy (6126380)
2.50pm-3.20pm Serve You Right Live (9068154)
5.10pm Home and Away (7140883)
5.37pm-5.40pm Three Minutes — Freescreen (952909)
6.00pm Meridian Tonight (99)
6.30pm Animal Country (51)
7.00pm-7.30pm 24 Hours (7512)
5.00pm Freescreen (15568)

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6.30pm Animal Country (51)
7.00pm-7.30pm 24 Hours (7512)
5.00pm Freescreen (15568)

- 6.35am Sherry and George** (s) (8901088)
7.00pm The Big Breakfast (50408)
9.00pm FILM: As You Desire Me (1932, b/w) starring Greta Garbo, Erich von Stroheim and Melvyn Douglas (8888883)
10.20pm FILM: Platinum Blonde (1931, b/w) starring Robert Williams, Jean Harlow and Lorena Lyons. With a guest appearance by Frank Capra (47815135)
11.55pm Teletext's Aids (2232222)
12.00pm House to House (18845)
12.30pm Waterways (s) (46116)
1.00pm Sesame Street (s) (74999)
2.00pm Australia, The wildlife of the snowfields of Mount Gambier, South Australia (1338)
2.30pm FILM: Angels Over Broadway (1940, b/w), A drama with Douglas Fairbanks Jr and Rita Hayworth. Directed by Ben Hecht and Lee Garmes (23537)
4.00pm Backdate (Teletext) (s) (84) 4.30 Countdown (Teletext) (s) (48) 5.00m Ridd Lake (Teletext) (s) (5230268) 5.45 Terrytoons (139511)
6.00pm Blossom, Blossom plays matchmaker for her grandfather's anniversary. With a guest appearance by Phyllis Diller (208390)
6.25pm Tour De France, Stage four of the cycling classic, a 232km leg from Soissons to Lac de Madine (466203)
7.00pm Channel 4 News (Teletext) (583118)
7.55pm The Slot (843067)
8.00pm Brookside, Lindsey thinks that Mike does not want her since she's raped, and Georgia panics when Bel demands to know the truth (Teletext) (s) (1574)
8.30pm Absolutely Animals, Wendy Turner travels to Tenerife to report on the story of a six-year-old leopard that has spent most of its life in a cage above a bar (Teletext) (s) (3339)



Americans bearing arms (9.00pm)

- 9.00pm Gunpower USA: Shot in the Heartland** (Teletext) (2390)
10.00pm American Gothic, Official American drama series set in small-town America, starring Gary Cole (Teletext) (s) (2777)
11.00pm The Naked Truth, American comedy series with Tim Allen as a failed photographer. With guest star Tom Hanks playing himself (Teletext) (s) (8864)
11.30pm Cheers, When Sam is asked to stand in for a local sports commentator, he finds out the hard way that it is not as easy as it looks (s) (Teletext) (s) (33241)
12.00pm Years of Japanese Cinema (Teletext) (s) (97182)
1.00pm FILM: Death — Japanese Style (1984, colour and b/w), An award-winning feature examining the three-day funeral ritual in modern Japan. Directed by Juzo Itami. In Japanese with English subtitles (7959348). Ends at 3.20

- For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday SKY ONE**
7.00am (1989) 8.20am Press Your Luck (144039) 8.30am Low Connection (4014512) 8.40am Oprah Winfrey (971151) 8.45am Jeopardy! (980280) 8.50am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.00am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.05am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.10am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.15am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.20am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.25am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.30am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.35am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.40am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.45am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.50am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.55am Jeopardy! (980280) 10.00am Jeopardy! (980280) 10.05am Jeopardy! (980280) 10.10am Jeopardy! (980280) 10.15am Jeopardy! (980280) 10.20am Jeopardy! (980280) 10.25am Jeopardy! (980280) 10.30am Jeopardy! (980280) 10.35am Jeopardy! (980280) 10.40am Jeopardy! (980280) 10.45am Jeopardy! (980280) 10.50am Jeopardy! (980280) 10.55am Jeopardy! (980280) 11.00am Jeopardy! (980280) 11.05am Jeopardy! (980280) 11.10am Jeopardy! (980280) 11.15am Jeopardy! (980280) 11.20am Jeopardy! (980280) 11.25am Jeopardy! (980280) 11.30am Jeopardy! (980280) 11.35am Jeopardy! (980280) 11.40am Jeopardy! (980280) 11.45am Jeopardy! (980280) 11.50am Jeopardy! (980280) 11.55am Jeopardy! (980280) 12.00am Jeopardy! (980280) 12.05am Jeopardy! (980280) 12.10am Jeopardy! (980280) 12.15am Jeopardy! (980280) 12.20am Jeopardy! (980280) 12.25am Jeopardy! (980280) 12.30am Jeopardy! (980280) 12.35am Jeopardy! (980280) 12.40am Jeopardy! (980280) 12.45am Jeopardy! (980280) 12.50am Jeopardy! (980280) 12.55am Jeopardy! (980280) 1.00am Jeopardy! (980280) 1.05am Jeopardy! (980280) 1.10am Jeopardy! (980280) 1.15am Jeopardy! (980280) 1.20am Jeopardy! (980280) 1.25am Jeopardy! (980280) 1.30am Jeopardy! (980280) 1.35am Jeopardy! (980280) 1.40am Jeopardy! (980280) 1.45am Jeopardy! (980280) 1.50am Jeopardy! (980280) 1.55am Jeopardy! (980280) 2.00am Jeopardy! (980280) 2.05am Jeopardy! (980280) 2.10am Jeopardy! (980280) 2.15am Jeopardy! (980280) 2.20am Jeopardy! (980280) 2.25am Jeopardy! (980280) 2.30am Jeopardy! (980280) 2.35am Jeopardy! (980280) 2.40am Jeopardy! (980280) 2.45am Jeopardy! (980280) 2.50am Jeopardy! (980280) 2.55am Jeopardy! (980280) 3.00am Jeopardy! (980280) 3.05am Jeopardy! (980280) 3.10am Jeopardy! (980280) 3.15am Jeopardy! (980280) 3.20am Jeopardy! (980280) 3.25am Jeopardy! (980280) 3.30am Jeopardy! (980280) 3.35am Jeopardy! (980280) 3.40am Jeopardy! (980280) 3.45am Jeopardy! (980280) 3.50am Jeopardy! (980280) 3.55am Jeopardy! (980280) 4.00am Jeopardy! (980280) 4.05am Jeopardy! (980280) 4.10am Jeopardy! (980280) 4.15am Jeopardy! (980280) 4.20am Jeopardy! (980280) 4.25am Jeopardy! (980280) 4.30am Jeopardy! (980280) 4.35am Jeopardy! (980280) 4.40am Jeopardy! (980280) 4.45am Jeopardy! (980280) 4.50am Jeopardy! (980280) 4.55am Jeopardy! (980280) 5.00am Jeopardy! (980280) 5.05am Jeopardy! (980280) 5.10am Jeopardy! (980280) 5.15am Jeopardy! (980280) 5.20am Jeopardy! (980280) 5.25am Jeopardy! (980280) 5.30am Jeopardy! (980280) 5.35am Jeopardy! (980280) 5.40am Jeopardy! (980280) 5.45am Jeopardy! (980280) 5.50am Jeopardy! (980280) 5.55am Jeopardy! (980280) 6.00am Jeopardy! (980280) 6.05am Jeopardy! (980280) 6.10am Jeopardy! (980280) 6.15am Jeopardy! (980280) 6.20am Jeopardy! (980280) 6.25am Jeopardy! (980280) 6.30am Jeopardy! (980280) 6.35am Jeopardy! (980280) 6.40am Jeopardy! (980280) 6.45am Jeopardy! (980280) 6.50am Jeopardy! (980280) 6.55am Jeopardy! (980280) 7.00am Jeopardy! (980280) 7.05am Jeopardy! (980280) 7.10am Jeopardy! (980280) 7.15am Jeopardy! (980280) 7.20am Jeopardy! (980280) 7.25am Jeopardy! (980280) 7.30am Jeopardy! (980280) 7.35am Jeopardy! (980280) 7.40am Jeopardy! (980280) 7.45am Jeopardy! (980280) 7.50am Jeopardy! (980280) 7.55am Jeopardy! (980280) 8.00am Jeopardy! (980280) 8.05am Jeopardy! (980280) 8.10am Jeopardy! (980280) 8.15am Jeopardy! (980280) 8.20am Jeopardy! (980280) 8.25am Jeopardy! (980280) 8.30am Jeopardy! (980280) 8.35am Jeopardy! (980280) 8.40am Jeopardy! (980280) 8.45am Jeopardy! (980280) 8.50am Jeopardy! (980280) 8.55am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.00am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.05am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.10am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.15am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.20am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.25am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.30am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.35am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.40am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.45am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.50am Jeopardy! (980280) 9.55am Jeopardy! (980280) 10.00am Jeopardy! (980280) 10.05am Jeopardy! (980280) 10.10am Jeopardy! (980280) 10.15am Jeopardy! (980280) 10.20am Jeopardy! (980280) 10.25am Jeopardy! (980280) 10.30am Jeopardy! (980280)

FOOTBALL 45

WEST HAM UNITED
SIGN STRIKER
FROM A C MILAN

SPORT

WEDNESDAY JULY 3 1996

RACING 47

DERBY WINNER
WITHDRAWN FROM
SANDOWN MEETING

Big time beckons as Henman courts centre stage



Henman trains with Ivanisevic yesterday

By DAVID MILLER

WISEACRES say he has, as yet, only beaten a couple of clay-court players and two Britons. There is not euphoria all down the line for Tim Henman, who today plays for a place in the men's singles semi-finals at Wimbledon.

Yet he has some sound judges on his side, optimistic about his potential for the big time. Among them is Tony Roche, one of the great left-handers, a superb volleyer and doubles player who lost the 1968 Wimbledon final to Rod Laver after winning the French and Italian titles in 1966.

Roche was a tough Australian grafter and knows the essential ingredient of hard work. "Henman has to continue with the work on his game over the past 12 months,"

Roche said. "He has to improve his service still further, but what is encouraging is that he now believes he can be a top player."

This belief shone through his straight-sets victory over Magnus Gustafsson, the Swede who is ranked No 37 in the world, in Monday's last 16. Everyone around the Centre Court was aware that Henman, at 21 the same age as Fred Perry when he reached his first Wimbledon quarter-final, never considered the possibility of losing for a moment.

It was particularly significant that, when serving for the match at 6-5 in the third set and having trouble with his first service, he deliberately went for the big second serve. It did not work and he lost the game, but he had refused to play safe.



Having failed, he remained nerveless for the tie-break, which he won 7-4 and, with it, the match. "He has a genuine talent," Stan Smith, the runner-up and then Wimbledon champion in 1971-72, observed. "I wouldn't want to say more for the moment while he's still there reaching out for new ground."

As impressive as his temperament in moments of crisis was Henman's range of volleys and ground strokes. Some

of his drives from the baseline, down both flanks, left Gustafsson stranded, while his volleys were consistently deep and pinching the tramlines. He has, too, a touch for mid-court half-volleys, a shot that, for example, has always eluded Boris Becker.

Ian Pascoe, the chief executive of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), whose £3 million-a-year training programme for juniors and seniors at last seems to be showing reward, emphasised the importance of the mental side of Henman's play. "Most of the better young players can hit the ball well, but it's attitude [that separates them]," he said. "If you add up the points in any match, mostly both players have won about the same, but it's when and where they win them that counts."

ON COURT

Tim Henman (GB) v Todd Martin (US)
(unseeded)
(No 13 seed)
Second on Centre Court, after Semprini v Krajicek (play starts at noon)
WORLD RANKINGS
Henman 54, Martin 18
TELEVISION: BBC1 1.40-5.30pm; 10.30-11.55pm (highlight); BBC2 1.0-3.55pm, 5.35-6.00pm

It is difficult to estimate the LTA's investment in one player, making allowance for use of the £2 million international training centre at Queen's Club, for instance. An approximate figure for Henman would be approaching £150,000, so far: something over £30,000 a year since he left school at 16, post-O levels, to work full time with David Felgate, the LTA coach, who gives Henman perhaps one third of his time.

Prior to that, Henman had

spent four years working out-of-school — Reed's, in Surrey — at David Lloyd's centre at Raynes Park. The making of a potential top-ten player is a lengthy, diligent process.

This is Henman's sixth grand-slam event — it was, coincidentally, Gustafsson's 24th — and he had never previously been past the second round. The last British player to reach a quarter-final stage was John Lloyd in the Australian Open in 1985, in which he then lost to Ivan Lendl.

Henman's grandfather, Henry Billington, reached Wimbledon's third round three times, but he died before his grandson was old enough to absorb any reminiscences or advice. "I don't have many memories of him at all," Henman admitted.

He relishes the attention,

and the pressure, which his success has generated. This, too, is the mark of a player who might go far, one who is not frightened but motivated by the prospect of fame. The cheering strengthens his resolve.

"It's a great atmosphere to play in [the Centre Court]," Henman reflected. "I don't think any of you can really understand it until you're out there on the court, with everyone cheering you on every time you hit a winner. It's very, very enjoyable. I hope that it continues... for the rest of my career."

It makes life more difficult, he said, for his opponents to know that they are playing against 15,001 people. Yesterday, Henman was studying Todd Martin, who will be confronted by all those people this afternoon.

KEVIN LAMARQUE

Japanese meets Graf in last four

Date's sun rises to illuminate semi-final spot

By DAVID MILLER

THE drama on Centre Court yesterday was so muted, in the women's singles quarter-finals, that you could have heard a sigh drop. History was made, nonetheless, Kimiko Date, from Tokyo, becoming the first Japanese semi-finalist at the Wimbledon championships since Jiro Satoh in the men's singles and doubles in 1933. Date defeated Mary Pierce 3-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Earlier Steffi Graf, in pursuit of her twentieth grand-slam title, had casually brushed aside Jana Novotna, her 25th win against the Czech. Novotna, the sixth seed, failed to come remotely near her challenge in the final of 1993, capitulating in the second set to lose 6-3, 6-2. Graf has had more trouble cracking a boiled egg.

In her semi-final tomorrow, Graf will meet Date, whose only victory in seven meetings was in three sets in the Fed Cup this year on a synthetic surface. The other semi-final will be between Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, the memorable losing finalist to Graf last year, and Meredith McGrath, a 25-year-old American living in Switzerland and ranked No 27. She has lost their two previous meetings, including one this year.

Although Monica Seles, less than fit and Conchita Martínez, the respective second and third seeds, had fallen in previous rounds, the women's tournament has been short of serious threats for the prominent seeds. Yesterday, only Date dropped a set. Though Wimbledon, of all tourna-

ments, retains a faithful following for the women's game, and down the years has thrilled to great champions from Brough, Buena, and Connolly, through Court and King to Evert, Navratilova and Graf, the general lack of female athleticism means lack of surprises.

Pierce, the Australian Open champion last year, is the one player — other than Martina Hingis in due time — who could blow the present establishment apart. At 21, she has a physique, the serve, the volleys, the ground strokes. Sadly for her and the public, and fortunately for her opponents, she seldom manages more than 30 seconds of continuous concentration.

Although she was seeded No 13 and Date No 12, Pierce could and should have swept aside the 5ft 4in Japanese in straight sets. As so often her game fell apart, this time at 3-4 down in the second set after which she took only one more game. Her later comment that "I was really close to winning" was self-delusion.

To the multitude of dress and hair adjustments that Pierce persistently makes on court, she has added another: knicker adjustment. Yesterday she wore, beneath a white shift dress so tight around the bodice that the buttons were all but popping, a brief pair of lycra cycle pants. Repeatedly, she was having either to hitch up the waist or grope beneath her skirt to pull down the legs. Inelegant, not to say uncomfortable and distracting.

Additionally, she was seemingly constantly troubled by something in one or other eye, regularly pausing between points and causing Date to wait.



Pierce, the No 13 seed, ponders another missed opportunity on the way to defeat in three sets against Date at Wimbledon yesterday

Few if any on the women's circuit could handle the power of an ordered Pierce, but her concentration wanders so hazily that, at one moment in the fourth game of the first set, she prepared to receive service in the wrong court. The book by her coach, Brad Gilbert, is called *Winning Ugly*. Pierce was losing ugly.

Little Date took her chance like a true professional. Often she would capitalise on Pierce's pace with her returns. Like Sánchez Vicario, Date is an accomplished retriever, though she hit her share of winners, notably in the game on which the match turned. With Pierce serving at 3-4 in the second set and looking

listless, Date hit three passing shots, took the game and then herself survived three break points to clinch her second set point on Pierce's error. Pierce had nothing left.

The measure of Novotna's

Henman dynasty 5
Simon Barnes 48
Stich unravels 49

defeat is that an erratic Graf did not play that well. Novotna's return of service, however, was often feeble and her chipped returns, when not over the baseline, were meat for Graf's second shot. Graf moved to 4-1 in the first set on

a game of five deuces in which she hit seven unforced errors. Novotna increasingly fretted, glancing anxiously at Hana Mandlikova, her coach and friend, sitting in the players' box. There was nothing either could do. "It was a lot easier than I expected," Graf said.

McGrath, 25, a former US Open mixed doubles champion, comfortably defeated Mary Joe Fernandez, the ninth seed, 6-3, 6-1 for an unexpected victory in her first year beyond the fourth round. "I stopped shaking five minutes ago," McGrath said afterwards.

Sánchez Vicario was untroubled in beating Judith Wiesner, the 30-year-old Austrian, 6-4, 6-0.

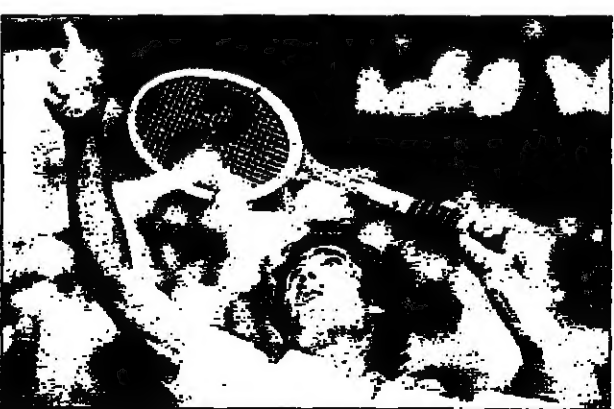
Taylor's tribute to heir apparent

Alix Ramsay meets the last British player to reach the men's singles quarter-finals

Today Tim Henman will step on to the Centre Court to face Todd Martin, knowing that he could be just a couple of hours away from joining Roger Taylor as the most successful British man at Wimbledon in the open era. Being the bright sort of chap that he is, he also knows that, if the fairy tale has come to its final chapter, he is just a couple of hours away from returning to normality.

Taylor, still fit, still tanned and still playing at 54, knows the feeling well. He reached the semi-finals at Wimbledon twice, the last time in 1973. On his way he beat a promising young Swede by the name of Bjorn Borg. They were heady days. The squealing teenagers clamouring for Borg invaded the Centre Court. "It was the first time it had happened and it was amazing to see it — but I was still the winner," Taylor said.

"Tim has to look at the positives; he's playing at home with all the support behind him. He's got to take advantage of that. British tennis has changed since my day and I think he has



Taylor serves at Wimbledon in his Seventies heyday

ed by the hype. He'll feed it all into his game plan. And if he beats Martin it won't change his life. Beating Borg certainly didn't change mine. Even if he wins he still has two matches to go."

In the dim and distant days of Taylor's victory he won £1,000. Henman has already made a fraction over £51,000 and, should he win today, he is guaranteed at least £98,125. Taylor does not begrudge him a penny, or a headline. "The money wasn't much in those days, but it helped to pay the bills, I suppose," he said. "But you don't play Wimbledon for the money, you play it for the respect of your peers. He'll be more happy with the way he has played."

Taylor will be on court today, and he feels confident. "He won't be affected by the enthusiasm of the crowd. If you need proof of his temperament, you just have to look at the way he dealt with the Gustafsson match," he said. "Four times they went off for rain and he came back to win. This country is looking for a winner and this is his great chance. Wimbledon puts a big stamp on your reputation."

DIAMONDS MAY BE FOREVER...



...ARTHRITIS NEEDN'T B

There are many forms of arthritic and rheumatic disease which affect men, women and children in Britain today, causing unrelenting pain and disability in hands, wrists and joints throughout the body.

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